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# Learn **hot** english magazine

No.150

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## TRAVEL ENGLISH

12 useful words and expressions to use on a business lunch.

## CINEMA

Places that have become famous from films!

## BUSINESS ENGLISH

How to become an eBay millionaire!

## ECONOMICS

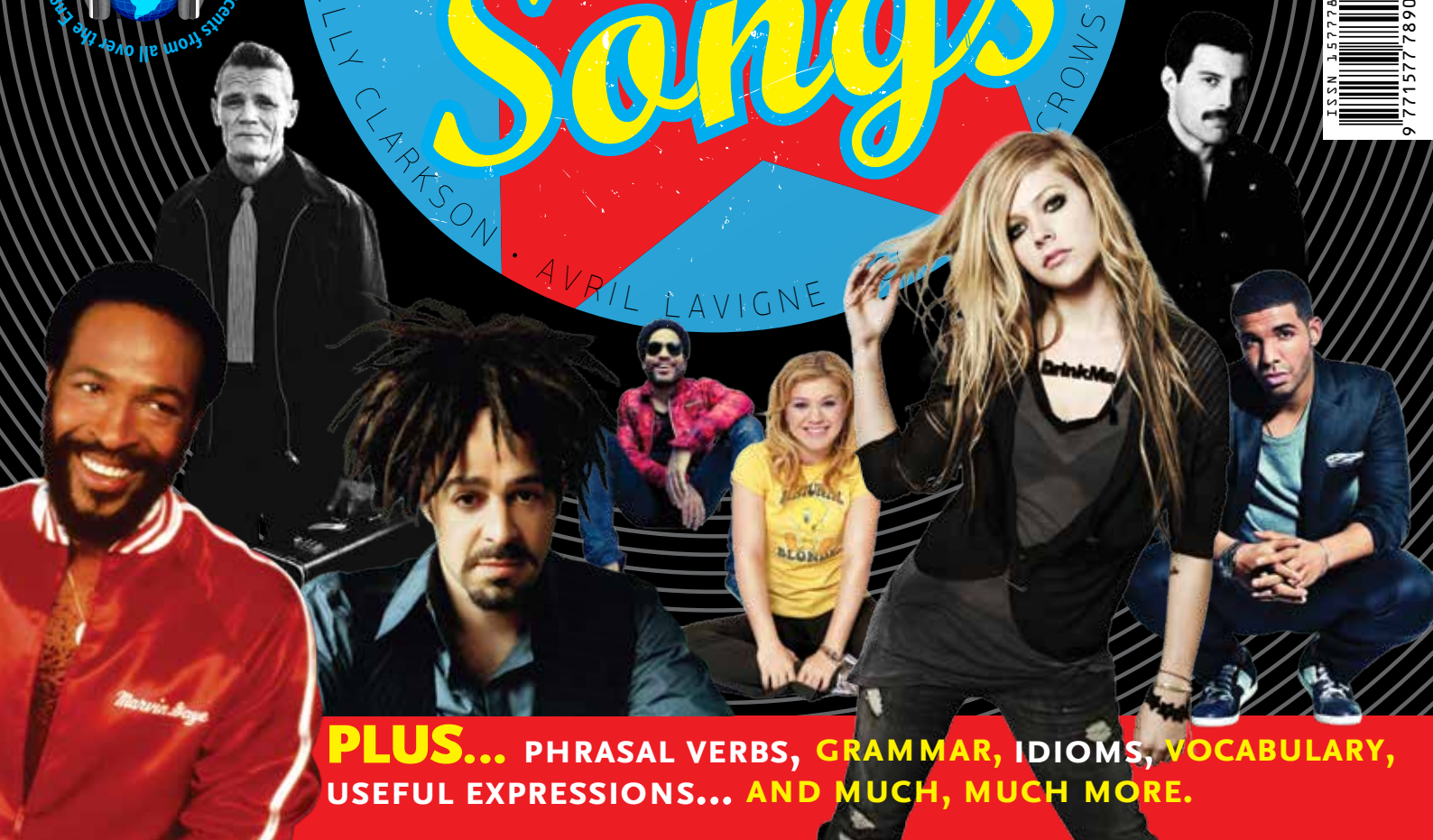
How maths can help the economy!

## SELFIES

12 different types of selfies!

## POLITICS

Scottish independence!



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# EDITOR'S INTRO

## How you learn English with Learn Hot English magazine

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Hi, and welcome to another issue of *Learn Hot English* magazine – the practical, informative and fun magazine for learning English.

In this month's issue, we're looking at 8 songs with phrasal verbs in them. Listen to the songs then read about the phrasal verbs in the songs. Songs are a great way to learn English. You can learn lots of useful words and expressions. And if you sing along to the songs, you'll improve your speaking and pronunciation skills, too.

This month, we're also looking at the **online retailer** eBay. Read about some unusual things that have been sold on eBay, find out how to become an eBay millionaire and get some top tips from the **founder** of the **ecommerce** giant.

Of course, that's not all. We've also got some articles on selfies, Ig Nobels (unusual science prizes), weddings, con artists, maths, gifts, Scotland, World War One and some very unusual conspiracy theories... to mention just a few.

Don't forget to check out the blog on our website: [blog.learnhotenglish.com](http://blog.learnhotenglish.com) for free lessons and articles on how to learn English. Or like us on Facebook or Twitter (@LearnHotEnglish) so you can keep up with our latest news.



### AUDIO FILES

Download the MP3 audio files for this issue for FREE from our website: [www.learnhotenglish.com/mp3s](http://www.learnhotenglish.com/mp3s)

Enjoy the magazine, learn lots of English and see you all next time,

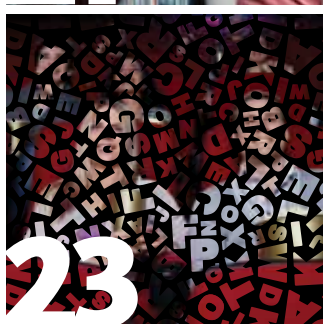
Yours, *Andy*

Remember to download the Hot English app for iPad, iPhone, iPod Touch and Android. It's fantastic!

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### GLOSSARY

**an online retailer** <sup>1</sup>  
a website where you can buy things (and sometimes sell them too)  
**the founder** <sup>2</sup>  
the person who "founds" (starts) a company or business  
**ecommerce** <sup>3</sup>  
buying and selling things online



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All material in this publication is strictly copyright, and all rights are reserved. Reproduction without permission is prohibited. The views expressed in *Learn Hot English* magazine do not necessarily represent the views of Hot English Publishing SL. However, we do think that maths is useful, Motown is cool and the excessive use of selfies on social media is a possible sign of a narcissistic personality disorder.



# BREAKFAST

Here are some typical things to have for breakfast.



Yoghurt



Cheese



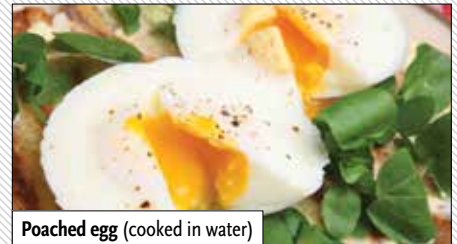
Toast



Croissant



Pancakes (made from milk, flour and eggs)



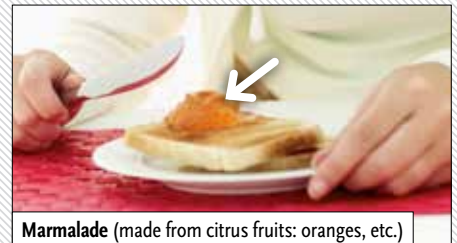
Poached egg (cooked in water)



Scrambled eggs (eggs that are beaten then cooked)



Jam (made from fruit)



Marmalade (made from citrus fruits: oranges, etc.)



Orange juice



Ham



Cold cuts / cold meats (pieces of cured meat)



Cereal



Muffin



Cup of coffee



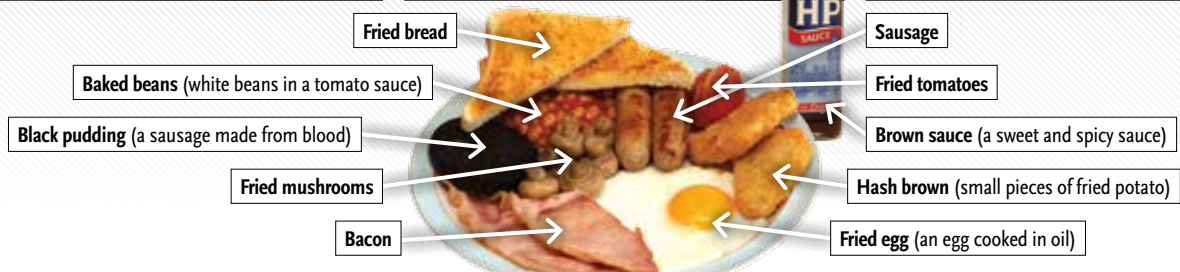
Pot of tea



Oats (a type of cereal – also oatmeal)



Porridge (oats cooked with milk or water)





**Objective** To improve your reading and listening skills.

**Think about it** What time do you have breakfast? What's the best breakfast you've ever had? Have you ever had a breakfast in a foreign country? What did you have? What did you like about it?

© **TRACK 1:** ENGLISHMAN & ENGLISHWOMAN

BREAKFAST IS THE MOST IMPORTANT MEAL OF THE DAY!

# BREAKFAST AROUND THE WORLD!

by Christian Olijve

**W**e asked several people what they have for breakfast and what it's typical to eat in their countries. Here's what they told us.

"A typical Greek breakfast would be some cheese and black olives **marinated** in olive oil, garlic and lemon. It's a good start to the day, with a cup of black coffee of course." **Zacharias, Greece**

"A typical breakfast in Mexico is probably "huevos rancheros" (ranch-style eggs) with fried eggs, **tortillas**, rice, beans and chilli sauce. I really like this kind of breakfast but not every morning. Normally, I have scrambled eggs with tomatoes, tortillas and **frijol** beans." **Carolina, Mexico**

"Breakfast for me usually consists of a banana and a **Greek yogurt**, and sometimes I'll add oatmeal, oh, and I can't function properly without a cup of coffee. When I go to eat breakfast in a restaurant, I usually have eggs, toast and bacon, which is more typical." **Roberto, USA**

"I think most people from Spain have coffee, cereal or toast, or some biscuits for breakfast, but I don't really have a big

**appetite** in the morning because I have to get up really early. So, I usually have some orange juice and cereal with milk. It's also typical here to have "**churros**" (fried sticks of dough)." **Carmen, Spain**

"I'm from the Netherlands and a typical breakfast here is wholemeal bread with butter and **Gouda cheese** with a glass of milk. However, I usually have porridge with **soy milk** and some **cinnamon**. I also have some fruit. On special occasions we have croissants with jam, eggs, orange juice and some yoghurt with fresh fruit." **Jochem, The Netherlands**

"A typical breakfast here would be an English breakfast, with sausages, hash browns, bacon, fried eggs and beans, but hardly anyone I know has that in the morning. I usually start the day with some scrambled eggs and tomatoes and fresh orange juice. We have a full English breakfast on special occasions, but we usually go out for it as it's too much **hassle** to make at home." **Cynthia, England**

"Here in South Africa my breakfast mostly consists of a **cappuccino** with some oats, scrambled eggs and

**rye toast** with **peanut butter**. On special occasions, we have our own version of the English breakfast with scrambled eggs, rye bread, beef sausages, mushrooms and tomatoes. We love a big breakfast!" **Tom, South Africa** 🇿🇦

## VIDEO

YouTube

Watch chef Gordon Ramsay cook a delicious breakfast. Search YouTube for "**Ramsay's USA Breakfast**".

## GLOSSARY

**to marinate** *vb*  
if you "marinate" meat (for example), you keep it in a mixture of oil, vinegar, spices, herbs, etc. before cooking it  
**tortilla** *n*  
a thin, flat piece of bread made from eggs and corn or flour  
**"frijol" (beans)** *n* *Spanish / Mexican*  
dried seeds from a bean plant that you can cook and eat  
**Greek yoghurt** *n*  
a type of yoghurt that is thick and creamy. It has no whey (the watery part) of sour milk  
**an appetite** *n*  
if you have an "appetite", you're hungry  
**"churros"** *n* *Spanish / Mexican*  
a type of breakfast food that consists of a stick of fried dough (see next entry)  
**dough** *n*  
a type of food made from flour, water, fat and sugar  
**Gouda cheese** *n*  
a type of yellow cheese made from cow's milk. It's from the Netherlands  
**soy milk** *n*  
milk that is made by soaking dry soybeans and mixing them with water  
**cinnamon** *n*  
a spice from the bark of a tree  
**a hassle** *n*  
if something is a "hassle", it's difficult and involves problems  
**cappuccino** *n*  
coffee with froth (milk with air) and powdered chocolate on top  
**rye** *n*  
a cereal grown in cold countries. Its grains can be used to make flour or bread  
**peanut butter** *n*  
a brown paste made from peanuts. You can put it on bread

Answers on page 44

### 1 Pre-reading

What do you have for breakfast? What do people have in your country? Make a list of all the things you eat or people generally eat or drink.

### 2 Reading I

Read or listen to the article once. Which breakfast sounds the most delicious? Why? Which one would you like to try?

### 3 Reading II

Read the article again. Then write a name next to each description of what the person has for breakfast.

1. A banana and a Greek yoghurt.
2. Olives marinated in olive oil, garlic and lemon.
3. Scrambled eggs, tomatoes and orange juice.
4. Scrambled eggs with tomatoes, tortillas and "frijol" beans.
5. Porridge with soy milk and cinnamon.

**Objective** To improve your reading and listening skills.

**Think about it** Have you bought anything new lately? What was it? What are some of your favourite devices or gadgets? What do you use them for? Have you read about any new inventions? What were they?

**Exams** This reading and listening activity will help prepare you for English exams such as KET and TOEFL.

TRACK 2 ENGLISHMAN & US MAN

GO AWAY! I'M SLEEPING.



# 5 FUN PRODUCTS YOU'VE GOT TO GET!

**H**ave you seen any unusual products lately? *The Daily Mail* recently featured a selection of imaginative new inventions. Here are a few of them.



## The Suitcase Scooter

The Suitcase Scooter is a **suitcase** that can be **converted** into an electric **scooter**. It has a speed of up to about 20 km/h, and it was designed by Chinese Inventor He Liangcai. The scooter includes a **throttle**, **brakes**, lights, a GPS, a **horn** and a **theft alarm**, and has enough power to travel up to a distance of about 60 kilometres.



## The Air-Conditioned Cooling Jacket

The Kuchofuku Air-Conditioned Cooling Jacket comes with two small battery-powered **fans** which blow cool air around your body. Designed by Hiroshi Ichigaya of Japan, the jacket allows you to stay cool with two 10-cm fans which are built into the pockets of the jacket.



## The Collapsible Boot

You never know when you might need a pair of **sturdy** boots. But the problem is they just take up so much luggage space. But not any longer. Lems Boulder Boots weigh about 300 grams and are the lightest boots in the world. Made of nylon and leather, they can be **squashed down** and easily **stuffed** into a bag.



## The Ostrich Pillow

The Ostrich Pillow can completely isolate you from the outside world. It's perfect if you're waiting for a flight or **commuting** home from work as you can **shut off** all **surrounding** noise. The strange-looking pillow was designed by Key Portilla-Kawamura and Ali Ganjavian of Studio Banana.



## The Mobile Cup Holder

Have you ever tried **rushing** to catch a plane or train with a cup of hot coffee in your hands? With the Mobile Cup Holder, you can move at great speed without **spilling** your drink. The drinks holder was invented by emergency room nurse Karen Porte. The device fits onto most **roller luggage** and holds the cup between the **retractable handles**. ☺

## VIDEO

YouTube

Watch the Suitcase Scooter in action. Search YouTube for "Rideable suitcase scooter invented in China".

## GLOSSARY

**a suitcase** *n*  
a bag for carrying things when you travel  
**to convert** *vb*  
if you "convert" A into B, A becomes B  
**a scooter** *n*  
a small light motorcycle with a low seat  
**a throttle** *n*  
a device you use to control the speed of a machine or vehicle  
**a brake** *n*  
the device on a machine or vehicle that you use to stop it or slow it down  
**a horn** *n*  
a device that makes a loud sound when you press it. It can be used to tell a driver to be careful or to show your anger  
**a theft alarm** *n*  
a device that makes a loud noise when it is moved or touched. The alarm can tell you that someone is trying to steal the object  
**a fan** *n*  
an electrical device that blows cool air  
**sturdy** *adj*  
strong  
**to squash down** *phr vb*  
if you "squash something down", you make it smaller by pushing down on it  
**to stuff** *vb*  
if you "stuff" something in a bag, you push it in there quickly  
**to commute** *vb*  
to travel to and from work  
**to shut off** *phr vb*  
if you "shut yourself off", you go to a place where there's no noise or people  
**surrounding** *adj*  
"surrounding" noise is the noise around you  
**to rush** *vb*  
to go somewhere quickly  
**to spill** *vb*  
if you "spill" coffee (for example), the coffee falls out of your cup  
**roller luggage** *n*  
a bag with wheels  
**retractable** *adj*  
if object A is "retractable", you can move it in or out of object B  
**a handle** *n*  
the part of a bag (for example) that you hold

Answers on page 44

## 1 Pre-reading

Look at the pictures of the products. What do you think they can do? Why are they special? What problems will they solve? Make notes.

## 2 Reading I

Read or listen to the article once to compare your ideas from the Pre-reading activity.

## 3 Reading II

Read the article again. Then, write the following abbreviated names of the products next to each statement: **Scooter, Jacket, Boot, Pillow, Cup**

1. It only weighs about 300 grams.
2. It can travel at speeds of up to 20 km/h.
3. With this product, you won't spill your coffee.
4. It was designed by an inventor from Japan.
5. It can completely isolate you from the outside world.





# DIFFERENT TYPES OF SELFIE!

**T**housands of smartphone **self-portraits** or “selfies” are taken and shared every day. But not all selfies are the same.



## The bed selfie

Take a picture of yourself in bed. Also known as a morning selfie.



## A beach feet selfie

A picture of your feet with the sand and sea in the background. Guaranteed to make your friends jealous while they're stuck in an office.



## A food selfie

A picture of you with a plate of food that you're about to eat.



## The gym selfie

A picture taken of you at the gym, with some impressive equipment in the background.



## The drunk selfie

A selfie of you while you're drunk.



## The duckface selfie

For this selfie, simply push out your lips and make them look bigger and sexier. Also known as a trout pout selfie.



## A friends selfie

Take a horizontal picture of you

with lots of friends to show just how popular you are.



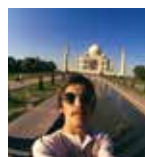
## The shy selfie

A picture of you looking shy and awkward, as if you didn't want the picture taken... even though it was you who took it!



## Belfie

An abbreviated form of “bottom selfie”, this is a self-portrait showing your backside. This is popular among celebrities such as Kim Kardashian and Rihanna.



## The holiday selfie

A picture of you in some exotic location. Guaranteed to make your friends jealous.



## The famous friends selfie

Take a picture of yourself with someone famous, then let all your friends know about it.



## The badass selfie

A picture of yourself looking really mean and hard, even though the worst thing you've ever done is to cross the road when the lights were red.



## The happy couple selfie

A picture that says, “Look, I've got a wonderful boyfriend/girlfriend.”



## The naked selfie

Naked selfies are often used for sexting.

Democratic congressman Anthony Wiener became internationally famous after sending naked selfies to a number of women.



## The inappropriate selfie

A selfie taken at an inappropriate moment, such as at a funeral, or like the one David McCarthy took after German cyclist Marcel Kittel had collapsed to the ground with exhaustion, or the one a young man took of himself at Eastbourne pier (in southern England), which was in flames. 🔥

## VIDEO



Find out how to take the perfect selfie. Search YouTube for “How to Take The Perfect Selfie”.

## GLOSSARY

- a self portrait** *n*  
a photo you take of yourself, or a painting you paint of yourself
- stuck** *adj*  
if you're “stuck” in an office, you're trapped there and can't leave
- a trout pout** *n*  
someone with a “trout pout” has thick lips (the part of your mouth you use for kissing). Literally, a “trout” is a type of fish; a “pout” is a look in which you push out your lips. Kids sometimes do it when they're angry
- shy** *adj*  
a “shy” person is nervous in the company of other people
- awkward** *adj*  
someone who feels “awkward” feels uncomfortable or nervous
- jealous** *adj*  
If you're “jealous” of another person, you feel angry because you aren't in their situation
- mean** *adj*  
a “mean” person is violent or cruel
- hard** *adj*  
strong both physically and mentally
- sexting** *n*  
the act of sending messages with sexually explicit photos between mobile phones
- Congressman** *n*  
an elected member of the House of Representatives in the USA
- a pier** *n*  
a wooden structure that goes into the sea. It often has shops or theatres on it
- in flames** *exp*  
if something is “in flames”, it's burning

Answers on page 44

## 1 Pre-reading

Look at the pictures of the different types of selfie. How many of them can you identify? How many of them have you taken? Which ones would you never take? Why?

## 2 Reading I

Read or listen to the article once. What's your favourite type of selfie? Why? What's your least favourite? Why?

## 3 Reading II

Read the article again. Then, write the correct type of selfie next to each statement.

1. It's often taken with a well-known person.
2. It's also known as a morning selfie.
3. It's a picture of you with big lips.
4. It's a picture of you looking awkward.
5. It's a picture of you and your partner.
6. It's guaranteed to make your friends jealous.

## GRAMMAR BOOSTER

# HOW TO TALK ABOUT THE IMPROBABLE FUTURE WITH SECOND CONDITIONALS

Affirmative	Negative	Interrogative
<i>If I saw it, I'd like it.</i>	<i>If I saw it, I wouldn't like it.</i>	<i>If I saw it, would I like it?</i>
<i>If you saw it, you'd like it.</i>	<i>If you saw it, you wouldn't like it.</i>	<i>If you saw it, would you like it?</i>
<i>If he saw it, he'd like it.</i>	<i>If he saw it, he wouldn't like it.</i>	<i>If he saw it, would he like it?</i>
<i>If she saw it, she'd like it.</i>	<i>If she saw it, she wouldn't like it.</i>	<i>If she saw it, would she like it?</i>
<i>If it saw it, it'd like it.</i>	<i>If it saw it, it wouldn't like it.</i>	<i>If it saw it, would it like it?</i>
<i>If we saw it, we'd like it.</i>	<i>If we saw it, we wouldn't like it.</i>	<i>If we saw it, would we like it?</i>
<i>If they saw it, they'd like it.</i>	<i>If they saw it, they wouldn't like it.</i>	<i>If they saw it, would they like it?</i>

The full forms are: I'd = I would; you'd = you would; he'd = he would; she'd = she would; we'd = we would; they'd = they would.  
The negative contraction is: wouldn't = would not.

We form Second Conditionals with *If* + a Past Simple verb, followed by another clause with *would* + an infinitive without "to". We often use the contracted forms *I'd*, *you'd*, etc. For example: "If you went to the party, you'd have a good time."

We use Second Conditional sentences to talk about imaginary situations in the future. Although we're using Past Simple verbs, we're actually talking about the present or future. For example: "If they went by bus, they'd get there more quickly."

We can use Second Conditionals to refer to something that might happen if a certain condition is met. For example: "If she bought it now, it'd be a lot cheaper."

We often use *were* instead of *was* with *I*, *he*, *she*, *it*. For example: "If I were you, I'd leave right now."

We can also use *could* with the Second Conditional to talk about future possibility.

For example: "If we took the train, we could play cards."

We can use question words (*who*, *what*, *when*, *where*, *why*, etc.) with the Second Conditional. For example: "What would you do if you found a wallet in the street?"

### Dialogue: The decision

Brian and Sam are at their country house. They're talking about the possibility of moving there permanently. [Complete the dialogue with the correct words.]

**Sam:** Just think, if we lived here all year, we could have parties at the weekend and invite all our (1) \_\_\_\_\_.

**Brian:** Yes, but it would take me ages to get home every night. The trains to Wokingham only leave every hour, and it takes about 40 minutes to get here from where I work. I wouldn't get (2) \_\_\_\_\_ till about 8pm at the earliest.

**Sam:** But if we bought another car, you could drive to work.

**Brian:** I don't want to drive. The (3) \_\_\_\_\_ is terrible.

**Sam:** Well, if you worked at home, you wouldn't have to commute at all. And just

think, the kids could walk to (4) \_\_\_\_\_.

**Brian:** Yes, but there's only a primary school in the village. What happens when they go to secondary school? We'd have to drive them there every (5) \_\_\_\_\_.

**Sam:** But when they get older, they can cycle to school.

**Brian:** It's far too dangerous.

**Sam:** Oh, and just think, if we bought the (6) \_\_\_\_\_ next to the farmhouse, I could buy a horse. I've always wanted a horse.

**Brian:** Yes, but then we'd have to build a stable for it, and

if we bought the land we wouldn't have any money to build the (7) \_\_\_\_\_. [A car pulls up outside.] Who's that?

**Sam:** Oh, no one. I'll get it. [She goes outside.]

**Brian:** [He goes outside.] What's this?

**Sam:** Jasper. Isn't he beautiful?

**Brian:** A horse! You bought a horse? Where are we going to keep him?

**Sam:** Erm, the (8) \_\_\_\_\_ until we get that piece of land. I'm sure he won't eat your vegetables and flowers, will he? \*





# 12 USEFUL WORDS & EXPRESSIONS WITH THE VERB *TO GIVE*

Here are 12 useful words & expressions with the verb *to give*.

## Give something to someone



If you "give something to someone", you provide them with that thing.  
**"He gave us some money."**

## Give up



If you "give up", you stop doing something, often because it's too difficult.  
**"I tried to complete the puzzle but it was too difficult so I gave up."**

## Give someone a ring / give someone a call



If you "give someone a call", you telephone them or call them with a mobile.  
**"I gave her a call, but she didn't answer."**

## Give back



If you "give something back" to someone, you return it to them.  
**"I gave her back the money she lent me."**

## Give someone a lift



To take someone in your car.  
**"She gave me a lift to the train station."**

## Give in



If you "give in", you stop fighting and admit that you're defeated.  
**"They gave in because the enemy forces were too strong."**

## Give someone the kiss of life / give someone mouth-to-mouth resuscitation



To breathe air into someone's mouth after they have lost consciousness.  
**"She gave him the kiss of life."**

## Give out



If you "give out" copies of something (for example), you hand each person a copy of that thing.  
**"She gave out the papers so everyone had a copy."**

## Give an idea



If someone gives you an idea, they help you think of an idea.  
**"You've just given me a good idea."**

## Give away



If you "give something away", you give it to someone without asking for anything in return.  
**"She gave away all her money."**

## Give a shock



If something gives you a shock, it surprises or frightens you.  
**"You gave me a shock when you did that."**

## Give off



If a liquid (for example) "gives off" a smell, it produces that smell.  
**"The gas was giving off an unusual smell."**

## Learning expressions

The best way to learn any words or expressions is by seeing or hearing them in context when you're reading or listening to English. Make a note of any words or expressions that you like (or want to learn) and write these down in sentences. Remember, always record language in phrases or sentences – never as individual words. You should also practise using the words or expressions as often as you can: in conversation, on the phone, in e-mails, etc.

**Objective** To learn some useful words and expressions for talking about anti-social behaviour.

**Think about it** When was the last time you went to a shop? What did you buy there? What shops are there near your house? What shops do you like visiting? Why? What are some of your favourite shops? And your least favourite ones? Why don't you like them?

## ENGLISH IN ACTION...

# SHOPS

### Note

In general, Americans use the word "store" instead of "shop". So, they'd say "pet store" instead of "pet shop", for example. Where the American term is different, this has been indicated. The words in brackets give you an example of the typical things you can buy in the shops.

Learn 15 words & expressions for talking about shops.

### Useful words



Pet shop (pets)



Toy shop (toys)



Bicycle shop (bikes)



Florist's (flowers)



Bookshop / bookstore (books)



Furniture shop (furniture)



Antique shop (antiques)



Post office (stamps, envelopes)



Bakery / baker's (cakes, bread)



Clothes shop (clothes)



Mobile phone shop (mobile phones)



Butcher's, meat market (US) (bacon, steaks, sausages)



Fishmonger's (fish, seafood)



Sport's shop (sports equipment)



Tailor's (suits, handmade shirts)

### More words

- Travel agency (holidays)
- Sweet shop / candy store (US) (sweets, chocolate)
- Shoe shop (shoes)
- Newsagent's / newsstand (US) (newspapers, magazines)
- Café (tea, coffee, cakes)
- Coffee shop / coffeehouse (coffee, tea, coffee, cakes)
- Ironmonger's / hardware store (US) (nails, tools, wood, screws)
- Delicatessen (deli) (cooked meats, cheese, olives)
- Greengrocer / grocery store (US) (vegetables, fruit)
- Chemist's / pharmacy / drugstore (US) (medicine, toothpaste)
- Photocopy shop / copy center (photocopies)
- Stationer's / stationery store (paper, pens)
- Second-hand shop / thrift store / charity shop (second-hand clothes)
- DIY shop / home improvement store (flat-pack furniture, tools). DIY = Do It Yourself
- Department store (a large

### Dialogue: The shopping trip

Brian has been out shopping. He's talking to his partner, Petra. **Complete the conversation with the correct shops.**

P=Petra B=Brian Pa=Parrot

P: So, how was your day?

B: Terrible!

P: Why?

B: I went shopping.

P: But you love shopping!

B: Yes, but everything went wrong. For a start I went to the (1) \_\_\_\_\_ to get a curtain rail.

P: And?

B: Well, when I got back, I found that it was too long.

P: Didn't you measure it first?

B: Yes, but I... Oh, I don't know what happened. Anyway, then I went to the (2) \_\_\_\_\_ to get some ink for the printer, but I've just realised that I've got the wrong cartridges, and I went to get a new shirt at the (3) \_\_\_\_\_, but they didn't have the one I wanted in my size, and then I walked past a (4) \_\_\_\_\_ and got a new smartphone, even though I've already got six; and then I got an 18th century writing desk from the

(5) \_\_\_\_\_, and then I got a box of 12 little cakes at the (6) \_\_\_\_\_ and ended up eating all of them, and then I felt really bad. So, well, I was walking past the (7) \_\_\_\_\_ and...

P: And?

B: Well, I saw this really cute dog...

P: Yes, and?

B: And, well, you know how it is...

P: No, I don't know.

B: Well, one thing led to another and... [woof, woof]

P: Oh, no!

B: I'm sure he'll get on really well with your cat. [cat hissing]

P: That remains to be seen!

B: Erm, and that's not all.

P: What? [sound of a parrot squawking]

B: Isn't he funny?

P: Give me that credit card, NOW! ☘

### VIDEO

YouTube

Watch a video about the British department store Selfridges. Search YouTube for "Mr Selfridge: A Day At The Famous London Store".

shop with many sections: clothing, toys, jewellery)

- Shopping centre / shopping mall (US) (a large building with many shops, restaurants)
- Petrol station / garage / gas station (US) (petrol, gas, diesel, oil)
- Pawn broker / pawn broker's (a shop where you can leave your personal possessions in return for money. If you return within a certain time, you can buy the goods back)

- Betting shop (a shop where you can "bet" – play games for money)
- Corner shop / convenience store (US) (milk, bread, chocolate, ketchup)
- Hypermarket / super store (US) (a large shop outside a town that sells clothes, food, electronics)
- Pound shop / dollar store / variety store (US) (a shop that sells cheap goods: food, drinks, sweets, deodorant, paper, plants, toys)



# NATURAL ENGLISH

● **TRACK 6:** BELGIAN MAN,  
N. IRISH WOMAN, SPANISH MAN,  
US WOMAN, BRAZILIAN MAN & US WOMAN

What sort of food do you eat?

Photos and interviews by Georgie & Danielle

**Tal** (Belgium,  
Web Designer)

**Tasty, sugary,** sweet food. I don't know if biscuits and **cookies** and **candy** count like food, but that would be the kind of food I eat. And otherwise... salad? Or... lately I've really **gotten into** hamburgers. I have them at least once a week.



**Laura J** (N. Ireland, Student)

I guess the... **staples:** pasta, vegetables, lots of fruit, always... erm... I really like Italian and Chinese in particular.



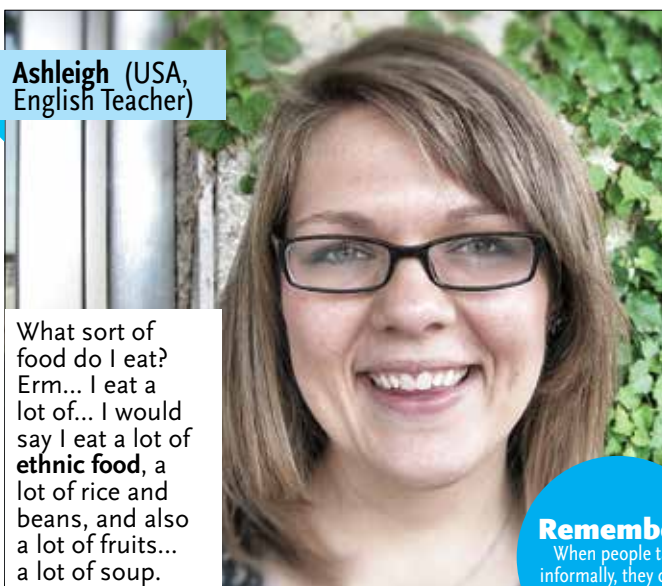
**José** (Spain,  
Flight Attendant)

Well, just vegetables, meat, some fresh fruit... and I *love* to eat ice cream – chocolate ice cream.



**Ashleigh** (USA,  
English Teacher)

What sort of food do I eat? Erm... I eat a lot of... I would say I eat a lot of **ethnic food**, a lot of rice and beans, and also a lot of fruits... a lot of soup.



**Remember!**  
When people talk informally, they often use non-standard English.

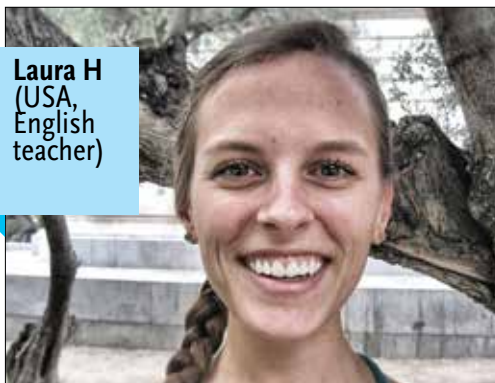
**Julio** (Brazil,  
Management Consultant)

Well... I like pasta a lot. But... I eat almost everything. I just don't like fish.



**Laura H** (USA,  
English teacher)

I will eat just about anything, but when I cook for myself I **tend** to cook mostly vegetarian. Just because I really, really love beans, and veggies, and any type of **legume** or fruit. [OK] I also cook mostly vegetarian because meat tends to be kind of expensive.



## GLOSSARY

- tasty** *adj*  
something "tasty" tastes nice and good
- sugary** *adj*  
with a lot of sugar
- a cookie** *n US*  
a biscuit
- candy** *n US*  
sweets
- to get into** *exp*  
if you "get into" something, you start to like it. Americans say, "I've gotten into"; the British equivalent is "I've got into"
- a staple** *n*  
food that is basic and important for our diet: rice, pasta, bread, etc.
- ethnic food** *n*  
food from a particular ethnic group (but not including Western culture): Indian food, Thai food, Indonesian food, etc.
- to tend** *vb*  
if you "tend" to do something, you usually do that thing
- a legume** *n*  
the fruit or seed of a plant: peas, beans, lentils, chick peas, etc.



**Objective** To improve your listening skills.

**Think about it** When was the last time you asked someone out on a date or someone asked you out on a date? Where did you go? Where's the best place to go out on a date? Why? What can go wrong on a date? What's the worst date you've ever been on? And the best? What do people typically say on a date?

**Exams** This listening activity will help prepare you for English exams such as KET and TOEFL.

TRACK 7: ENGLISHMAN & ENGLISHWOMAN

THIS IS NICE!

YES, I ALWAYS BRING MY DATES HERE.

## Note!

Don't read the audio script until you've completed the exercises and activities.

Answers on page 44

### 1 Pre-listening

If you ask someone out on a date, what could you invite them to do? Think of as many ideas as you can. For example: *to go for a meal in a restaurant, to go for a walk in the park, to go to a party...*

### 2 Listening I

You're going to listen to two people (Alfie and Lisa) who are chatting in a bar. Alfie is talking about his love life. He wants to go on a date with Jessica, but it's proving to be difficult. Listen once. How many of your ideas from the Pre-listening task were mentioned?

### 3 Listening II

Listen again. Then, choose the correct words.

#### Message 1

- Alfie asked Jessica to the *cinema / theatre* on Tuesday.
- He invited her to *dinner / lunch* on Wednesday.
- He invited her to the *cinema / theatre* on Thursday.
- He asked her to accompany him to the *theatre / opera* on Friday.
- He wants to invite her to the opening of an art *gallery / arcade* this evening.
- He promises he won't phone her again until the end of *April / May*.
- She's in mourning because her *hamster / grandfather* died.

### 4 Listening III

Listen again and complete the audio script with the correct words.

#### Audio script

# Asking someone out on a date

**Lisa:** So, how are things with Jessica?

**Alfie:** Not too good. We haven't been out once yet.

**Lisa:** Oh, no.

**Alfie:** I asked her to the cinema on Tuesday, but she had a doctor's (1) \_\_\_\_\_.

**Lisa:** That's unfortunate.

**Alfie:** Then, I invited her to lunch on Wednesday, but she had a (2) \_\_\_\_\_ to go to.

**Lisa:** Terrible.

**Alfie:** I invited her to the theatre on Thursday but her (3) \_\_\_\_\_ was ill.

On Friday I asked her to accompany me to the opera, but she had to stay late at (4) \_\_\_\_\_. And on Saturday, her car was stolen so she couldn't come with me to the park.

**Lisa:** Very unlucky.

**Alfie:** Yes, so, anyway, I'm thinking of her asking her to come along to the (5) \_\_\_\_\_ of a modern art gallery this evening.

**Lisa:** That sounds nice. I love modern art.

**Alfie:** Yeah, right, anyway, I thought

I'd phone her now, so wish me luck.

**Lisa:** Oh, yes, right, good luck!

**Alfie:** [He dials her number.] Hi, is that Jessica? Well, I was just calling to ask you... Oh no. How terrible... I am so sorry... Oh, no... Yes, yes, I understand. OK. Yes, you'll be in mourning. I entirely understand... No, no, I won't phone again for at least six (6) \_\_\_\_\_. So, round about 14th of... the end, the end of May. OK, yes, yes, I understand... Please pass on my condolences to your (7) \_\_\_\_\_ at this very difficult time... [He hangs up.]

**Lisa:** What's up then? Can't she make it?

**Alfie:** No, no, her hamster died.

**Lisa:** Oh, right, well, next time then. So, who are you going to ask to the art gallery? I know someone who really wants to go, who really likes (8) \_\_\_\_\_ and who is quite fond of you, actually.

**Alfie:** Really?

**Lisa:** Yes.

**Alfie:** Oh, right.

**Lisa:** It's someone who isn't that far away from you right now. In fact, they're pretty close.

**Alfie:** Of course! How could I be so stupid? Mandy! Have you got her (9) \_\_\_\_\_?

**Lisa:** I think so. Here you are.

**Alfie:** Thanks!

**Lisa:** My pleasure.

**Alfie:** [He dials the number.] Hey, Mandy. How's it going?... Oh, no. Really?... Oh, I am sorry... Yes, yes, I understand. I'll call back later... in a week or so. Yes, yes, OK. [He hangs up.] [to Lisa] Typical. She can't go either. I guess I'll have to go to the art gallery on my own... unless... unless you want to come along.

**Lisa:** No, it's all right. I think I'll go home and watch some TV.

**Alfie:** Oh, OK. Bye.

**Lisa:** Bye. ☆

## GLOSSARY

**in mourning** *adj*  
if someone is "in mourning", they're sad because someone died. Traditionally, people "in mourning" wear black clothes



**Objective** To learn some useful words and expressions for networking.

**Think about it** Have you ever done any networking? Where did you do it? Who did you talk to? How successful were you? Did you make any useful contacts? Do you ever do any social networking? Which groups are you in?

TRACK 8: ENGLISHMEN

## PRACTICAL ENGLISH

# NETWORKING

Networking is the process of meeting new people and making contacts. People use networking to attract more business, get a better job or sell more products. Networking often takes place at social events (conferences, business fairs, talks, etc.) where you can chat to people, build relationships, ask for advice and offer to help in some way.

### Starting the conversation

- Have you been here before?
- Do you know many people here?
- Have you come from far?
- Where are you staying?
- Hi, I'm (Jessica). I work with Marstone Trading.
- Hi, my name's (Jack): Do you mind if I join you?
- Would you like to join us? There's some room on the table.

### Developing the conversation

- I hear you've been working on a new project.
- I enjoyed your talk on changes in the industry.
- Where are you based?
- Do you often go to conferences?
- How did you get involved in (international finance)?
- How are you dealing with the recent changes?
- How have you been promoting your products?

### Exploring possibilities

- Let's get together sometime next week.
- We could meet up next time you're in town.
- Send over your proposal and we'll take a look at it.
- I could put you in touch with our managing director if you want.
- I know someone who might be able to help you.
- I could pass on your details to the marketing manager.
- We aren't in the market for this kind of thing, but I know someone who is.
- I could send you a list of our services for you to look over if you want.
- Would you be interested in hearing how our products have helped other companies?
- Could I give you a call sometime next week to go over some of our options?

### How to end the conversation

- It was great talking to you. We'll have to keep in touch.
- I really enjoyed talking to you. We'll have to meet up again sometime.
- Are you on LinkedIn? / Is your company on Facebook?
- Here's my business card. / Have you got a business card?
- I've arranged to meet someone at 1pm, so I've got to go.
- I've got another meeting in 10 minutes, so if you don't mind, I'd better head off.
- Do you know where the bathroom is?
- I think the next talk starts in a few minutes, so I'd better get going.

Hi! How can I help you?



### Dialogue: The chat

Bruce and Nigel are at an international conference in London. They're waiting in a queue to get their conference badges. **[Complete the conversation with the correct words.]**

- Bruce:** They're taking their time, aren't they?
- Nigel:** Yeah, they are.
- Bruce:** Have you been here before?
- Nigel:** This is my third (1) \_\_\_\_\_.
- Bruce:** My first. So, have you come far?
- Nigel:** Manchester. What about you?
- Bruce:** San Francisco.
- Nigel:** Wow!
- Bruce:** I flew in just (2) \_\_\_\_\_.  
Actually, it isn't too bad coming over – it's going back that's the killer.
- Nigel:** I can imagine. So, are you staying close by?
- Bruce:** The Waysgate (3) \_\_\_\_\_, I think it's called.
- Nigel:** Oh, right, I'm there too.
- Bruce:** Bruce Milton, by the way. Pleased to meet you.
- Nigel:** Nigel Masters. Pleased to meet you.
- Bruce:** So, have you been to any of the (4) \_\_\_\_\_?
- Nigel:** Yeah, a couple. One of them was really good. It was all about this...
- Bruce:** Oh, no. Sorry to interrupt. You know what? I've left my (5) \_\_\_\_\_ in the main hall. Would you mind if I just went to get it?
- Nigel:** Sure. I'll save your place in the (6) \_\_\_\_\_.  
Great. See you in a (7) \_\_\_\_\_.  
[He comes back.] Did you find it?
- Bruce:** Yes, thanks.
- Nigel:** Hey, before I forget, here's my card. I'm the head of a small online marketing (8) \_\_\_\_\_. We help businesses promote themselves online.
- Bruce:** Sounds interesting. Here's my card.
- Nigel:** [reading the card] Oh, the Bruce Milton... the CEO of Milton Networks.
- Bruce:** That's me.
- Nigel:** Wow! I was hoping to talk to you today.
- Bruce:** Look, I've got a meeting later this (9) \_\_\_\_\_, but I've got a bit of spare time from 3:30 to 4pm. Why don't we meet up for a coffee in the (10) \_\_\_\_\_? You could tell me all about your company.
- Nigel:** That sounds great. Thanks so much.
- Bruce:** My pleasure. See you at 3:30.
- Nigel:** See you. Bye.
- Bruce:** Bye. ☺

# THE CANTONESE CHINESE ENGLISH ACCENT

This month, we're looking at the Cantonese Chinese English accent.

By Ariel and Colleen.

I SPEAK CANTONESE CHINESE ENGLISH!

Canton is an area of China where they speak Cantonese, a form of Chinese. Hong Kong is an important Cantonese city. It was a British colony until 1997, but now forms a part of China. Hong Kong has a population of around 7 million people. Other important Cantonese cities include Macao, Guangdong and Shenzhen.

There are several special features of the Cantonese Chinese English accent. For a start, we don't have the /aʊ/ sound in Cantonese. So, it's hard for Cantonese speakers to pronounce words such as "down", which we pronounce as /daʊ/. Other difficult words with this sound are "town" and "around". Another difficult sound for us is the /θ/ sound. A

common mistake is to say "free" instead of "three", "fank you" instead of "thank you", "feory" instead of "theory" or "fick" instead of "thick".

The /ɔɪ/ sound is also hard for us. For example, we have difficulty pronouncing words such as "point", which we might pronounce as /pɒnt/. Other difficult words with this sound are "coin" and "join".

It's quite common for Cantonese speakers to mix up the words that start with "l" and "n", such as "light" and "night". So, we might pronounce both of these words as "light".

Here's a little story so you can hear me speaking in a Cantonese Chinese English accent.



## Story: the drink

Once, my friend and I went to Barcelona. My friend was very tired and thirsty after shopping, so we went to a food market to get a drink. We found a shop that had a bottle for a euro. So, she chose a bottle of orange juice. At the time, she didn't speak much Spanish, so she spoke in English to the shop assistant. After paying the one euro, the shop assistant gave my friend another bottle and said "Free!" But my friend misunderstood her and thought she was saying "Three!" She couldn't understand why it was just one euro for one bottle,



but three euros for two bottles. So, my friend said "No!" and refused to take the extra bottle. The sales assistant kept saying "Free! Free!", but my friend refused to take it. Eventually, the shop assistant gave up and put the bottle back. But later, as we were walking home, we passed by the shop again and noticed a sign in the window that said, "2X1" (two for one), which means, you get two bottles for the price of one. And it was then that my friend realised that the salesperson had been saying "Free", not "three"! 🌟



SHALL WE SHARE AN INTIMATE MOMENT?



# Places made famous by films

by Christian Olijve

**F**amous places often appear in films.

But sometimes, a place can become famous because of a movie. Here are six of them.

## The fire station from *Ghostbusters*



**Location:** 14 North Moore Street, New York (USA). This

comedy starred Bill Murray and Sigourney Weaver and is about three **parapsychologists** who start a ghost catching business. They use a fire station in New York as their headquarters. The actual **fire station** is a popular **landmark** and fans of the film often take pictures of themselves there.

## The bookshop in *Notting Hill*



**Location:** 142 Portobello Road, London (England).

This bookshop in London became famous after William Thacker (played by Hugh Grant) met Anna Scott (played by Julia Roberts) there in a scene from the romantic comedy *Notting Hill*. Unfortunately, it never **survived** as a bookstore and eventually became a shoe shop.

## Tiffany's, from *Breakfast At Tiffany's*



**Location:** 727 Fifth Avenue, New York City (USA). *Breakfast*

*At Tiffany's* is a romantic comedy starring Audrey Hepburn and George Peppard. Hepburn plays a young woman who becomes interested in a

man who has just moved into her **apartment building**. Tiffany's (also known as Tiffany & Co.) is a luxury goods and jewellery shop that appears several times in the film.

## The bench from *Fault In Our Stars*



**Location:** Prinsengracht 263-267, Amsterdam (The Netherlands).

*Fault in our Stars* is the **heartbreaking** story of two young cancer patients who fall in love. It stars Shailene Woodley and Ansel Elgort. The **bench** features in the film and is where the main characters share a special moment (including a kiss). The **local council** removed the bench for a time, but it was returned by popular demand after **complaints** from fans of the film.

## The family home from *Mrs Doubtfire*



**Location:** 2560 Steiner Street, San Francisco (USA).

*Mrs Doubtfire* is about out-of-work **voice-over artist** Daniel Hillard (played by Robin Williams). After his wife files for divorce, Daniel desperately wants to be with his children, so he **pretends** to be a **nanny** so he can take care of them. The actual house where the film was set is a popular tourist destination. The home is now owned by a San Francisco plastic surgeon. On hearing of the death of actor Robin Williams, fans **paid their respects** by leaving notes and flowers outside the house.

## The hotel from *The Shining*

**Location:** Timberline Lodge,



27500 West Leg Road, Oregon (USA).

"All work

and no play makes Jack a dull boy," were the famous words spoken by frustrated writer Jack Torrance (played by Jack Nicholson). Jack and his family spend the winter at the **isolated** Overlook Hotel where strange things start happening. The hotel used for **exterior shots** in the movie is Timberline Lodge, which is on the south side of Mount Hood in Oregon (USA). It was built in the late 1930s and is a popular tourist attraction for fans of the movie. ☆

## VIDEO

You Tube

Watch the trailer for the film *Notting Hill*. Search YouTube for "**Notting Hill** – Trailer".

## GLOSSARY

a **parapsychologist** <sup>11</sup> someone who investigates paranormal and psychic phenomena (such as ghosts)

a **fire station** <sup>11</sup>

a building where there are fire engines and where fire fighters wait until they're called to a fire

a **landmark** <sup>11</sup>

a building or structure that can be easily seen from far away in a city or town

to **survive** <sup>11b</sup>

if a shop (for example) "survives", it continues to exist as a shop, even though times are hard, or the economy is slow

an **apartment building** <sup>11</sup>

a large building with many floors and many apartments (little houses) in it

**heartbreaking** <sup>11</sup> *adj*

very sad

a **bench** <sup>11</sup>

a long chair in the street where you can sit

the **local council** <sup>11</sup>

the people who are elected to represent a town or city. The "local" council is the one in the area you're referring to

a **complaint** <sup>11</sup>

if someone makes a "complaint", they say that they aren't happy about something

a **voice-over artist** <sup>11</sup>

an actor who does the speaking part for a cartoon character in a film or TV show

to **pretend** <sup>11b</sup>

if you "pretend" to be someone, you act as if you're that person, even though you aren't

a **nanny** <sup>11</sup>

a woman who is paid to look after children, often in a rich person's house

to **pay your respects** <sup>11</sup> *exp*

if you "pay your respects" to someone who has just died, you go to see a relative of theirs or you leave flowers at their house

**isolated** <sup>11</sup> *adj*

an "isolated" place is far from towns, cities and people and is difficult to reach

**exterior shots** <sup>11</sup>

the parts of the film that are shot outside (not in a building or room, etc.)

Answers on page 44

## 1 Pre-reading

Look at the names of the films in the article. Which ones have you seen? What did you think of them? Which ones would you like to see? Why?

## 2 Reading I

Read or listen to the article once. Which famous place from these films would you like to visit? Why?

## 3 Reading II

Read the article again. Then, write the name of a film next to each description.

1. It's about a man who will do anything to be with his children.
2. It's set in New York City and stars Bill Murray.
3. It's a romantic comedy with a scene in a shop in London.
4. It's a horror film that takes place in a hotel.
5. It's the story of two people who fall in love.
6. It's set in New York City and stars Audrey Hepburn.

**Objective** To improve your reading and listening skills.

**Think about it** Have you ever sold anything online? What was it? Which of the objects from this page would you like to buy? Why? Which of your possessions would you like to put up for sale? How much would you sell them for?

**Exams** This reading and listening activity will help prepare you for English exams such as PET and TOEFL.

© TRACK 11: ENGLISHMAN & US MAN



IT'S ONLY BEEN USED ONCE!

# UNUSUAL THINGS SOLD ON eBAY

by Christian Olijve

eBay is one of the world's biggest online retailers. You can buy everything from clothes to toys to **antiques** to furniture and books. You can also get some unusual items. **Margaret Thatcher's** handbag once sold for £103,000. Justin Timberlake's half-eaten **French toast** went for \$3,154 in 2006, and J.D. Salinger's un-cleaned toilet was **put up for auction** in 2011 at a starting price of \$1million. Here are some more unusual things that have been sold on eBay.



**Product: A man's life**  
**Sold for: Just over \$200,000**

Ian Usher was so sick and tired of his life and everyone in it that he decided to sell it. The sale included all his material possessions – his house, his furniture, his car, etc. – as well as the possibility of getting introduced to all his friends. Talk about a new beginning!

the superstar thought it would be a good idea to sell it for **charity**. And as she claims to have caught the cold from fellow-actor Samuel L. Jackson, the tissue has double celebrity value. ☆

## VIDEO

YouTube

Watch a video about some unusual things sold on eBay. Search YouTube for "3 Weird Clothing Items That Sold On ebay".

## GLOSSARY

**an online retailer** *n*  
a website business that sells things  
**an antique** *n*  
an object that is old and valuable  
**Margaret Thatcher** *n*  
a British prime minister from 1979 to 1990  
**French toast** *n*  
bread that is covered in an egg mixture and then fried  
**to put up for auction** *exp*  
if you "put an object up for auction", you sell it at a public sale. The person who offers the highest price can buy it  
**a username** *n*  
a name you type in so you can access a website  
**an imaginary friend** *n*  
a friend who exists in your head  
**a bid** *n*  
an offer of a price for an object at an auction or public sale  
**short on cash** *exp*  
if you're "short on cash", you don't have much money  
**a forehead** *n*  
the part of your head above your eyes and below your hair  
**snoring** *adj*  
if someone "snores", they make a loud sound through their mouth or nose when they're sleeping. "Snoring" is the adjective  
**a remedy** *n*  
a cure for an illness  
**an association** *exp*  
if you have an "association" with someone, you do business or work with them  
**a CEO** *abbr*  
the chief executive officer – the most important person in a company  
**a tissue** *n*  
a thin piece of paper you can use to clean your nose  
**a charity** *n*  
an organisation that helps poor people (for example)

Answers on page 44

## 1 Pre-reading

Look at the product names in the article. What do you think the products consist of exactly? Why would someone pay for them?

## 2 Reading I

Read or listen to the article once. What's the most ridiculous or unusual product that was sold on eBay? Why?

## 3 Reading II

Read the article again. Then, answer the questions.

1. How much was "the meaning of life" sold for?
2. Who sold his imaginary friend?
3. What was the imaginary friend's name?
4. What did Ian Usher sell?
5. What part of his body did Andrew Fischer put up for sale?
6. Who gave Scarlett Johansson a cold?



**Product: The meaning of life**  
**Sold for: \$3.26 dollars**

Have you ever wondered about the meaning of life? For a mere \$3.26, you could have had the answer.



**Product: An imaginary friend**  
**Sold for: \$3,082.15 dollars**

A man with the **username** "thewildandcrazyol" felt he was getting a bit too old for his **imaginary friend** Jon Malipiemman so he put him up for sale. "He is really friendly and I will send you a list of things he likes and dislikes," the seller explained. Amazingly Jon Malipiemman got 31 **bids**.



**Product: a man's forehead**  
**Sold for: \$37,375**  
When

Andrew Fischer was a little **short on cash** he decided to put his **forehead** up for sale as advertising space. He eventually got \$37,375 to advertise the **snoring remedy**, SnoreStop. "I look forward to an enjoyable **association** [with Andrew]," SnoreStop CEO Christian de Rivel said in an interview with NBC news.



**Product: Used tissue**  
**Sold for: \$5,300**

Of course, this isn't just any **tissue** – this is Scarlett Johansson's. After blowing her nose once,

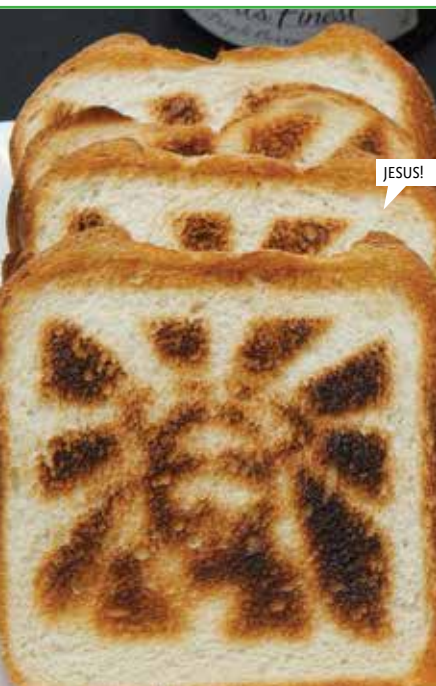


**Objective** To improve your reading and listening skills.

**Think about it** Have you ever won a prize for something? What was it? Have you ever done any research? What was it for? Have you ever had an idea for some research? What was it? What area of science do you like most? Why?

**Exams** This reading and listening activity will help prepare you for English exams such as PET and TOEFL.

● TRACK 12: ENGLISHMEN



JESUS!

# IG NOBELS – PRIZES FOR UNUSUAL SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH!

Ig Nobels are prizes for unusual scientific research – the kind of research that makes you laugh, then makes you think. The award ceremony for the prizes is organised by science magazine *The Annals of Improbable Research*, and takes place at Harvard University. Here are some of the winners.

This year's neuroscience prize went to a team from China for trying to understand what happens in the brains of people who see the face of Jesus on a piece of toast. Their paper was titled, "Seeing Jesus in Toast: Neural and Behavioral Correlates of Face Pareidolia". Very useful!

This year's psychology prize went to a joint team from Australia, the UK and the USA for collecting evidence that shows that people who stay up late are, on average, more self-admiring, more manipulative, and more psychopathic than people who get up early in the morning. Their paper was called "Creatures of the Night: Chronotypes and the Dark Triad Traits". Scary!

The biology prize went to a joint team from the Czech Republic, Germany and Zambia for doing research on

the way dogs go to the toilet. They discovered that canines prefer to align their body axis with the Earth's north-south geomagnetic field lines. Their paper was titled "Dogs are sensitive to small variations of the Earth's magnetic field". Fascinating!

The physics prize went to a team from Japan for measuring the amount of friction between a shoe and a banana skin, and between a banana skin and the floor, when a person steps on a banana skin that's on the floor. Their research could help ensure that no one ever slips on a banana skin again. Safety first!

And finally, the Arctic science prize went to a team from Norway for recording the reactions of reindeer on seeing humans who are disguised as polar bears. Their paper was titled, "Response Behaviors of Svalbard Reindeer towards Humans and Humans Disguised as Polar Bears on Edgeøya". As part of the research, they measured response distances for reindeer from a stalking polar bear, and compared this to the responses from the reindeer to a person disguised as a polar bear.

Whatever next? ☆

## \* IG NOBELS

The name of the competition (The Ig Nobels) forms an expression that sounds like the English word "ignoble", which is basically the opposite of "noble" (a "noble" person has a good character and is honest, generous and selfless). For more information on Ig Nobels, visit: [www.improbable.com/ig](http://www.improbable.com/ig)

## VIDEO

YouTube

Watch a video on the Ig Nobels. Search YouTube for "The Ig Nobel prize: Awards for weird science".

## GLOSSARY

**research** *n*  
scientific investigation  
**an award ceremony** *n*  
a public event in which prizes (awards) are given to people  
**neuroscience** *n*  
the science that deals with the structure or function of the nervous system and brain  
**a brain** *n*  
the large organ in your head that you use for thinking, etc.  
**to title** *vb*  
to give a name to a book, an article, etc.  
**a correlate** *n*  
a similarity. Also, a "correlation"  
**pareidolia** *n*  
the act of seeing patterns in data  
**self-admiring** *adj*  
someone who is "self-admiring" loves him/herself  
**manipulative** *n*  
if someone is "manipulative", they are good at persuading people to do things  
**psychopathic** *adj*  
someone who is "psychopathic" may act in a violent or bad way without feeling sorry for what they have done  
**a trait** *n*  
a characteristic or quality that you have: kindness, honesty, nobility, etc.  
**scary** *adj*  
frightening  
**a canine** *n*  
a dog  
**to align** *vb*  
if you "align" A with B, you put A in a position so it's parallel with (in line with) B  
**a body axis** *n*  
a central line that cuts a body or figure in two, separating it down the middle  
**geomagnetic field lines** *n*  
the lines of force surrounding a permanent magnet or a moving charged particle  
**to measure** *vb*  
if you "measure" the quality, value or effect of something, you discover how great it is  
**friction** *n*  
the force that makes it difficult for things to move when they're touching each other  
**to slip** *vb*  
if you "slip", you accidentally fall (often on ice)  
**a reindeer** *n*  
a deer with large horns. "Reindeer" pull Father Christmas' sleigh  
**to disguise as** *exp*  
if you "disguise yourself as" something, you put on clothes so you look like that thing  
**to stalk** *vb*  
if animal A "stalks" animal B, animal A follows animal B quietly in order to kill it or catch it

Answers on page 44

### 1 Pre-reading

Look at the following list of prizes. What sort of research would any of these prizes involve? What things would scientists do research on to win one of these prizes?

neuroscience prize

biology prize physics prize

psychology prize

Arctic science prize

### 2 Reading I

Read or listen to the article once to compare your ideas from the Pre-reading activity.

### 3 Reading II

Read the article again. Then, write **Biology, Arctic Science, Psychology, Physics** and **Neuroscience** next to each statement.

1. The winners of this prize were from Europe and Africa.
2. Participants from the team for this prize dressed up as an animal.
3. The prize went to a team from China.
4. The research for this prize involved a piece of fruit.
5. The team for this prize looked at people who stay up late.

**Objective** To improve your listening skills.

**Think about it** Have you ever been on a blind date? Who was it with? What happened? What online dating sites have you heard of? What do you think of online dating? What are the pros and cons?

**Exams** This listening activity will help prepare you for English exams such as PET and TOEFL.

TRACK 13: ENGLISHMAN & ENGLISHWOMAN



### Note!

Don't read the audio script until you've completed the exercises and activities.

Answers on page 44

## 1 Pre-listening

What questions could you ask someone you've just met? Think of at least six. For example: *Where did you go to school? Have you got any brothers or sisters? What type of films do you like?* Etc.

## 2 Listening I

You're going to listen to two people (Nigel and Erika) who are on a blind date – a romantic evening for two people who have never met before. Listen once to compare your ideas from the Pre-listening activity. Were any of your questions mentioned?

## 3 Listening II

Listen again. Then, answer the questions.

1. What's Nigel going to have to drink?
2. What school did Nigel go to?
3. Where did Erika grow up?
4. Where did Nigel shoot a lion?
5. What did he learn how to do in Thailand?
6. What does Erika say about Nigel's photo on his diving licence?
7. What type of car has Nigel got?
8. What does Erika do?

## 4 Listening III

Complete the audio script with the correct words.

# Chatting on a first date

### Audio script

**Nigel:** Erika, isn't it?

**Erika:** Yes, that's right. Nigel?

**Nigel:** Nigel Goodman. *[They shake hands.]*

**Erika:** Nice to meet you.

**Nigel:** Nice to meet you too. So, did you (1) \_\_\_\_\_ the pub all right?

**Erika:** Yes, it's quite close to where I (2) \_\_\_\_\_.

**Nigel:** Great. Can I (3) \_\_\_\_\_ you a drink?

**Erika:** Oh, I've already got one, thanks.

**Nigel:** I'll go and get a pint then. *[He leaves, then comes back.]* So, are you from round here?

**Erika:** Sort of, I (4) \_\_\_\_\_ to school just down the road...

**Nigel:** I went to St Michael's. Great school. I (5) \_\_\_\_\_ in the first 11 football team and I was the captain of the cricket team.

**Erika:** Impressive.

**Nigel:** I was also in the Rubik's Cube Club, the Drama Society and the Engineering Club.

**Erika:** You certainly kept yourself busy

**Nigel:** I certainly did. So, did you (6) \_\_\_\_\_ round here?

**Erika:** No, actually, I lived in Hull...

**Nigel:** Hull! That's where my grandparents used to live. We went there every summer.

Amazing place. Lots of great memories.

**Erika:** So, have you, erm, (7) \_\_\_\_\_ much?

**Nigel:** Oh, yes. I've been to France, Germany, America, Australia, Tanzania...

**Erika:** Tanzania? What was that like?

**Nigel:** Incredible, we went on this safari and I (8) \_\_\_\_\_ a lion and three buffalo. I've got the lion's head on the living room wall.

**Erika:** Oh, right.

**Nigel:** So, what about you? Have you done much travelling?

**Erika:** Yes, quite a bit, mostly in Asia. I've been to Thailand...

**Nigel:** Thailand? I've been there. Incredible place. I (9) \_\_\_\_\_ there for three months. It's where I did my PADI diving course.

**Erika:** What's that?

**Nigel:** It's this course you do so you can go scuba diving. Look, I've got my diving licence. *[He takes it out of his wallet.]*

**Erika:** Do you always (10) \_\_\_\_\_ that around with you?

**Nigel:** You never know when you might need it.

**Erika:** Is that you in the photo?

**Nigel:** Yes, just last year.

**Erika:** Looks like you've (11) \_\_\_\_\_ a bit of weight since then.

**Nigel:** No, I haven't.

**Erika:** So, where do you work?

**Nigel:** Hargreaves Cleaning Products. I'm the regional sales manager. Just been promoted, actually! And I've got a company car. There's a brand new Ford Fiesta (12) \_\_\_\_\_ outside at this very moment.

**Erika:** Very nice.

**Nigel:** And you?

**Erika:** I'm a doctor. I...

**Nigel:** So, if I start choking on my crisps you'll give me the kiss of life.

**Erika:** Erm, more like the Heimlich manoeuvre.

**Nigel:** What?

**Erika:** Oh, nothing. Erm, so what film are we going to (13) \_\_\_\_\_?

**Nigel:** Well, I thought about going to see... *[He continues talking for 10 minutes.]* ...which is why I thought it'd probably be the best film to see.

**Erika:** Oh, look, is that the time? I'm sorry but I've got to go.

**Nigel:** But what about the film?

**Erika:** I'm not (14) \_\_\_\_\_ too good. Bye.

**Nigel:** Oh, right. Bye. *[to himself]* What a strange woman! ☆



**Objective** To improve your range of business English vocabulary.

### Think about it

Have you sold anything online? What was it? How much did you sell it for? Did you make a profit? Was it worth the trouble of setting up the sale? How much did the postage cost you? What are the pros and cons of selling on eBay?

## BUSINESS NEWS

# HOW TO BECOME AN eBAY MILLIONAIRE!

**W**ant to become a millionaire? Why not start selling things on eBay? Many people have made a fortune buying and selling on the online retailer. And thousands are now millionaires. Here are a few.

Answers on page 44

### 1 Pre-reading

If you could open a shop (either a physical one or an online one) which products from the list below would you sell? Why? What would you do to guarantee you made a profit?

- |                   |            |           |
|-------------------|------------|-----------|
| jewellery         | CDs & DVDs |           |
| designer clothing | antiques   |           |
| cosmetics         | rare items |           |
| shoes             | watches    | books     |
| handbags          | toys       | furniture |
| paintings         | stamps     |           |

### 2 Reading I

Read or listen to the article once. Which eBay business is the most impressive? Why?

### 3 Reading II

Read the article again. Then, write Ethan, Alison or David next to each statement. Who...

1. ...left school with no qualifications?
2. ...sometimes loses money on sales?
3. ...made a 300% profit on the first thing they sold on eBay?
4. ...more than doubled their money within two weeks of trading?
5. ...was helping a relative liquidate some stock?
6. ...often starts auctions at 99 cents?

One eBay millionaire is American Ethan Dekel. He sells luxury designer menswear at 40% to 80% below **retail prices**. In an interview with *entrepreneur.com*, Ethan recalls how it was a **relative** with a clothing shop who **got him into** the fashion business.

"My uncle asked me to help him **liquidate** some designer suits on the internet. Right away, I thought of eBay," Ethan says. "When the first suit sold for a 300% profit, a **light went on in my head**." The same uncle helped him find **wholesale suppliers** – one of the biggest **hurdles** for those starting on eBay.

Alison Abruneiras is another eBay millionaire. She left school with no qualifications and had no business experience. She now **runs** The Nail and Beauty Emporium, a successful **cosmetic retail business**. She started out selling from her house, but now trades worldwide and has a **warehouse** with employees. "It's incredible to think that this started on a computer in my bedroom," she said in an interview with the *Daily Mail*. "If I can do it, anyone can. You don't have to have an education," she added. So, how did it all start. "I bought £3,000 worth of products from a **wholesaler** and stored them in my bedroom – which had become my office," she explained. "Within two weeks I'd sold nearly all of that too



and more than **doubled my money**. From then, it became an addiction. I'd be on the computer first thing in the morning and up until midnight."

David Wirtenberg is another **ecommerce** millionaire. He sells engagement rings, wedding bands and other jewellery. He recalls how it was his father-in-law who helped him at first. "He said, 'Let's see if we can sell jewellery on the internet. So, I went to 47th Street in Manhattan. I knocked on every door. I didn't know anything about diamonds at the time. I was looking for suppliers, for an education, anything.' He ended up buying a couple of diamond rings, and he immediately sold them for a profit and it all went from there. "Most of my diamond **auctions** start at 99 cents. Sometimes I lose money; sometimes I make money. Whatever makes the customer happy, I do. Our **packaging** is second to none. Sometimes we pack our diamonds in **Fabergé eggs** [for free]. Once you have customers, you have those customers for good."

Get selling! ✨

TRACK 14: ENGLISHMAN & US MAN

## Business English



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### HOW TO SELL ON eBAY

Write a description of your product and upload a photo of it. Then, either set a fixed or auction price. If you set an auction price, you receive bids from buyers. An auction usually lasts for a week.

### VIDEO

YouTube

Watch a video on how to sell things on eBay. Search YouTube for "eBay Tips by eBay Guru: ABC News".

### GLOSSARY

- a retail price** *n*  
a price a customer pays for something in a shop
- a relative** *n*  
someone who is related to you: your brother, uncle, aunt, sister, etc.
- to get you into something** *exp*  
if someone "gets you into" a business, they help you to start working in that business
- to liquidate** *vb*  
if a company "liquidates" its stock, it sells it
- a light went on in my head** *exp*  
if a "light goes on in your head", you suddenly have a good idea or notice something
- a wholesale supplier** *n*  
a company that sells large quantities of goods to shops, etc. (not to customers)
- a hurdle** *n*  
a difficulty
- to run** *vb*  
if you "run" a business, you manage it
- cosmetics** *n*  
lipstick, make-up, powder, mascara, etc. that people put on their faces to make themselves look beautiful
- a retail business** *n*  
a business that involves selling products to customers
- a wholesaler** *n*  
a company that sells large quantities of goods to shops, etc. (not to customers)
- to double your money** *exp*  
to make 100% profit. For example, to make €50 after investing €25
- ecommerce** *n*  
buying and selling things online / through a website, etc.
- an auction** *n*  
a public sale. Goods are offered and the person who offers the most money can buy them
- packaging** *n*  
the paper or plastic that goes around a product to protect it in a shop, etc.
- a Fabergé egg** *n*  
an egg with jewels on it

**Objective** To improve your reading and listening skills.

**Think about it** When was the last time you went to a wedding? Where was it? What was it like? How would you describe it? Did anything go wrong? What? Have you heard any other stories of wedding disasters? What did they involve?

**Exams** This listening activity will help prepare you for English exams such as PET and TOEFL.

© TRACK 15: ENGLISHMAN & US MAN

ARE YOU  
ENJOYING  
THE  
WEDDING?



# When a wedding goes wrong!

Answers on page 44

## 1 Pre-reading

What could go wrong at a wedding? Use the words below to think of as many ideas as you can.

- |               |                   |
|---------------|-------------------|
| the guests    | the bouquet       |
| the drinks    | the food          |
| the ceremony  | the party         |
| clothes       | the wedding dress |
| transport     | the weather       |
| the hotel     | the honeymoon     |
| the church... |                   |

## 2 Reading I

Read or listen to the article once to compare your ideas from the Pre-reading task.

## 3 Reading II

Read the article again. Then, answer the questions.

1. Why did the bride from Connecticut get angry?
2. What did the elderly guest throw instead of rice?
3. Why did the man from Liverpool cause a bomb scare?
4. What's the name of the place and the state where the wedding guests fell into the lake?
5. What were the wedding guests fighting over in what was described as a "large fight"?
6. What happened to the pilot of the plane that crashed?

**P**reparing for a wedding can be stressful. There's so much to think about and a lot can go wrong... as these wedding disasters clearly show.

### Wedding arrest

A young **bride** from Connecticut (USA) was arrested at her wedding after getting drunk and throwing cake and glasses at her new husband. **Witnesses** said she "**flipped out**" when the bar at the **reception** stopped serving drinks for the night.

### Rice attack

Instead of throwing a **handful** of rice at the **happy couple** as they came out of the church, an 88-year-old wedding guest accidentally threw her glass of wine at them, including the actual glass. The glass missed the bride, but **struck** the **groom** in the eye. He was rushed to hospital, where he was treated for **minor trauma**.

### Bomb scare

A young man from Liverpool was arrested after causing a **bomb scare**. The unfortunate man had forgotten to book the **registry office** for the wedding, but **didn't have the heart** to tell his fiancée. So, he called them up and said that a bomb had been left inside

the building. He's now facing a jail sentence after admitting to the hoax call.

### Wedding fall

Almost a whole wedding party fell into a **lake** after the **jetty** they were standing on collapsed. The group, who were in a wedding in Crosslake, Minnesota, were waiting for a photo to be taken when the wooden structure broke under their weight.

### Wedding fight

A couple's wedding celebrations were interrupted by a **brawl** over a **pork pie**. Police were called to deal with what was later described as a "large fight" in which one woman had her ear bitten. Apparently, the fight broke out after one guest **reached for** the last pork pie but it was **grabbed** by another guest at the last minute.

### Bouquet crash

A couple **hired** a small plane to fly past their guests and drop the bride's **bouquet** to a line of women standing below. But as the plane flew over the crowd the flowers were **sucked back** into the engine, causing it to catch fire and explode. Fortunately, the pilot only suffered minor injuries. ✨

## VIDEO

YouTube

Watch the wedding party fall in the lake. Search YouTube for "Wedding Party Falls into Lake".

## GLOSSARY

- a bride** *n*  
the woman who is going to get married in a wedding
- a witness** *n*  
someone who sees an event or crime
- to flip out** *exp informal*  
to become extremely angry
- a reception** *n*  
a party that takes place after a wedding
- a handful** *n*  
a "handful" of rice (for example) is an amount that you can hold in your hand
- the happy couple** *n*  
the two people who are going to get married
- to strike (past: struck)** *vb*  
to hit
- the groom** *n*  
the man who is going to get married in a wedding
- minor trauma** *n*  
an injury (a cut on your body, for example) that isn't very serious
- a bomb scare** *n*  
if there's a "bomb scare", there's a report of a bomb in a building
- the registry office** *n*  
an official, state-run office where you can get married
- not have the heart to do something** *exp*  
if you "don't have the heart to do something", you can't do it because you know it'll make someone sad
- a lake** *n*  
an area of water surrounded by land
- a jetty** *n*  
a wooden platform on a lake where boats stop to let people get on or off
- a brawl** *n*  
a fight
- a pork pie** *n*  
a type of pie with meat in it
- to reach for** *exp*  
if you "reach for" something, you try to take it with your hands
- to grab** *vb*  
to take something suddenly and with force
- to hire** *vb*  
if you "hire" something, you pay to use it for a limited time
- a bouquet** *n*  
a bunch of flowers that are tied together and that look nice
- to suck back** *exp*  
if an object is "sucked back" into an engine (for example), it's pulled there by the force of the engine



Christian Olijve

# Motown

**M**otown was a popular style of music from the 1960s and 1970s. The name Motown refers to a **record label** and is a contraction of the words "motor town" – the nickname for Detroit (Michigan). At the time, Detroit was the centre of the **automotive industry**, and it was where Ford founded the Ford Motor Company in 1903. Some famous Motown stars include Diana Ross, Marvin Gaye, Gladys Knight, Smokey Robinson and Michael Jackson. Here are a couple of Motown songs:



## Baby Love (The Supremes)

The Supremes consisted mainly of Diana Ross, Florence Ballard and Mary Wilson, but a lot of other singers came and went

**along the way**. The group was formed in 1959 and continued **performing** until 1977. Other hits by the group include *Stop! In The Name Of Love* and *You Keep Me Hangin' On*.

## Song extract

Ooh, ooh, need to hold you,  
Once again, my love,  
Feel your warm **embrace**, my love,  
Don't throw our love away,  
Please don't do me this way,  
Not happy like I used to be,  
**Loneliness** has got the best of me.



## What's Going On (Marvin Gaye)

Marvin Gaye was an American singer-songwriter and musician. Some of his hits include *How Sweet It Is (To Be Loved By You)* and *I Heard It Through the Grapevine*. In 1982, Marvin won a **Grammy** for his **hit** *Sexual Healing*. Since his death on 1st April 1984, Marvin has been posthumously awarded the Grammy Lifetime Achievement Award and has been entered into the **Rock and Roll Hall of Fame**.

## Song extract

Father, father,  
We don't need to **escalate**,  
You see, war is not the answer,  
For only love can **conquer** hate.



## I want you back (The Jackson Five)

The Jackson Five was an American group that consisted of five brothers.

It was formed in 1964

and the band members were Jermaine, Michael, Jackie, Tito and Marlon. Some of their famous songs include *ABC*, *Blame It On The Boogie* and *Can You Feel It*. Michael left the band in 1984 and went on to become the King Of Pop.

## Song extract

Trying to live without your love,  
Is one long sleepless night,  
Let me show you girl,  
That I know wrong from right,  
Every street you walk on,  
I leave **tear stains** on the ground,  
Following the girl,  
I didn't even want around,  
Let me tell you now.



## Superstition (Stevie Wonder)

Stevie Wonder is an American singer-songwriter who was **signed up** by Motown at

the age of just 11. Although he was born **blind**, he has had a hugely successful **career**, selling more than 100 million records and winning over 20 Grammy Awards. Some of his hits include *Higher Ground* and *I Just Called To Say I Love You*.

## Song extract

Very **superstitious**, ladders 'bout to fall,  
Thirteen month old baby, broke the lookin' glass,  
Seven years of bad luck, the good things in  
your past. ☘

## Objective

To improve your English by reading about music and listening to song lyrics.

## Think about it

What groups or bands have you heard from the 1960s or 1970s? Which ones do you like? What type of music from the 1960s and 1970s do you like? Have you heard of any of the artists or bands mentioned in this article? What do you think of their music?

## VIDEO

YouTube

Watch the *Jackson Five* perform the song *ABC*. Search YouTube for "The Jackson 5 - ABC".

## GLOSSARY

- a record label** *n*  
a company that produces and markets records and songs, and that manages groups or singers
- the automotive industry** *n*  
the industry that builds cars, trucks, vans, lorries, vehicles, etc.
- along the way** *exp*  
during a period of time
- to perform** *vb*  
if a band "performs", it plays music to an audience
- an embrace** *n*  
if you give someone an "embrace", you hold them in your arms as a way of showing you like them
- loneliness** *n*  
a feeling of sadness because you're alone
- a Grammy (Award)** *n*  
an American award (prize) by the National Academy of Recording Arts and Sciences for musicians, singers, bands, etc.
- a hit** *n*  
a song that sells many copies and is very popular
- the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame** *n*  
a museum in Cleveland (USA) that has an archive of the world's most important and influential bands, singers, producers, etc.
- to escalate** *vb*  
if a situation "escalates", it becomes more serious or dangerous
- to conquer** *vb*  
if A "conquers" B, A beats or dominates B
- a tear stain** *n*  
a mark left from a tear (a drop of water from your eye)
- to sign up** *phr vb*  
if a record label "signs up" a singer, the singer signs a contract with that record label
- blind** *adj*  
if someone is "blind", they can't see
- a career** *n*  
someone's music "career" is the part of their life that they spend writing or playing music
- superstitious** *adj*  
people who are "superstitious" believe in magic, etc. For example, they think that breaking a mirror will give them seven years' bad luck

# THE BUSINESS LUNCH

Learn over 20 useful words to use at a business lunch!

## Useful words



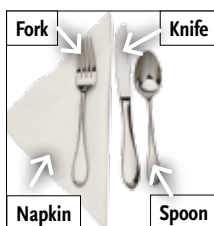
Wine glass



Plate



Bowl

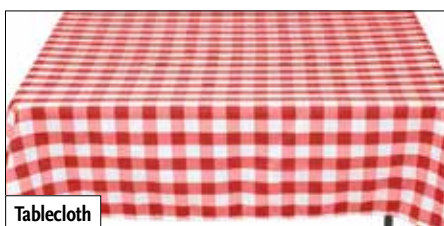


Fork

Knife

Napkin

Spoon



Tablecloth



Waiter / waitress



Laptop



Tablet computer



Business card



Tip

## More words

- **Menu** – a piece of paper with the prices and list of things you can eat in the restaurant.
- **Starter** – food you eat before the main course: soup, a salad, etc.
- **Main course** – the large plate of food you order: fish and chips; steak with potatoes, etc.
- **Dessert** – a sweet dish you eat at the end of the meal: cake, yoghurt, sorbet, etc.
- **Set menu** – a fixed price for the starter, main course and dessert. There's usually a limited choice of options.
- **Bill** – a piece of paper that tells you how much you have to pay for your meal.

## Making small talk

- Have you been here before?
- Where are you staying?
- Is it your first time here?
- How was the trip?
- What's the hotel like?
- How's the weather been?
- What would you recommend?
- I'd just like to propose a **toast** to our new project. / Here's to our new project.

## Dialogue: The business lunch

Sally Fields has just flown over from Dublin to speak to Peter Prescott about a development project. They're having a business lunch. **Listen once, then complete the text with the correct words.** Dialogue: S=Sally P=Peter W=Waiter



YOU ARE PAYING FOR THIS, AREN'T YOU?

- S: Mr Prescott, isn't it?  
P: Yes, that's right. Pleased to meet you.  
S: Pleased to meet you. I'm Sally Fields. Sorry, I'm late. I got a (1) \_\_\_\_\_ from the airport, but the traffic was terrible. Have you been waiting for long?  
P: No, I've only just got here myself.  
S: Oh, good. [looking around the restaurant] This is nice.  
P: It's my regular. I often come here for (2) \_\_\_\_\_. I'll get the waiter over.  
S: [looking at the menu] So, what would you recommend then?  
P: The lasagne is really nice.  
S: OK. So, I hear you moved (3) \_\_\_\_\_.  
P: Yes, we relocated to a big building downtown.  
W: Good afternoon. Can I get you anything to drink?  
P: [to Sally] Shall I order some (4) \_\_\_\_\_?  
S: Yes, go ahead.  
P: We'll have a bottle of Beaujolais Nouveau, please.  
W: Very well, sir. And are you ready to order?  
S: I think so.  
P: Go ahead.  
S: For (5) \_\_\_\_\_, I'll have the prawn cocktail, please.  
P: And I'll have the seafood platter.  
W: Very well. And for the (6) \_\_\_\_\_?  
S: I'll go for the lasagne.  
P: And I'll have the lobster.  
W: Very well. I'll be back in just a minute with your (7) \_\_\_\_\_ and starters.  
P: So, how was the trip?  
S: Fine, thanks. The (8) \_\_\_\_\_ got in a bit early, actually.  
P: Great.  
S: So, erm, did you get a chance to look over the proposal? I've got the figures here on my (9) \_\_\_\_\_ if you need to check over them again.  
P: Yes, it all looks good. So, you want to demolish the old cinema and put up some luxury apartments, right?  
S: Yes, that's it, and we're prepared to pay the asking price for the land.  
P: Development for the (10) \_\_\_\_\_. That's great.  
S: I knew we could rely on you.  
W: Here are your drinks and starters. If you need anything else, please let me know. Enjoy your meal.  
P: Thanks. Oh, could you bring the ketchup, please?  
W: Certainly, sir.  
S: So, what do you think of our idea to... [fades out] ✨

## GLOSSARY

**a toast**  
if you propose a "toast" to something (a new deal, for example), you ask people to drink together as a way of showing appreciation for that thing or hoping that it'll be successful



# 8 WAYS TO LEARN ENGLISH GRAMMAR!



How useful is **grammar** for learning a language?  
And what can you do to improve your knowledge of it?

## \*\*Verb tables

Here's a verb table for the Past Simple.

Affirmative	Negative	Interrogative
<i>I saw a good film.</i>	<i>I didn't see a good film.</i>	<i>Did I see a good film?</i>
<i>You saw a good film.</i>	<i>You didn't see a good film.</i>	<i>Did you see a good film?</i>
<i>He saw a good film.</i>	<i>He didn't see a good film.</i>	<i>Did he see a good film?</i>
<i>She saw a good film.</i>	<i>She didn't see a good film.</i>	<i>Did she see a good film?</i>
<i>It saw a good film.</i>	<i>It didn't see a good film.</i>	<i>Did it see a good film?</i>
<i>We saw a good film.</i>	<i>We didn't see a good film.</i>	<i>Did we see a good film?</i>
<i>They saw a good film.</i>	<i>They didn't see a good film.</i>	<i>Did they see a good film?</i>

**G**rammar *alone* isn't going to help you speak a language.

However, learning some basic **patterns** can be useful. For example, if you know the negative past tense is formed with *didn't* + a verb, you can produce hundreds of useful sentences: *I didn't go, she didn't see it, we didn't do it...* So, what can you do to improve your knowledge of grammar? There are two things: firstly, you need to learn how to *form* sentences; secondly, you need to know how to use the structures. Here are 8 things you can do to achieve those two objectives:

## Forming basic structures

### 1 Verb tenses

When it comes to studying grammar, the best thing you can do is to focus on **verb tenses**\* as this will help you communicate in English. Firstly, you need to find out how the tenses are formed. In order to do this, simply get hold of a grammar book, choose a tense and read about it. Then, do some basic exercises online or in an exercise book to practise forming the structure.

### 2 Verb tables

A good way to learn how to form tenses is by **memorising verb tables**\*\*. A basic verb table will show you how verbs are **conjugated**. In order to memorise the verb tables you could study them for a bit, then try to write them out yourself without looking. Having the structures firmly in your head will make reproducing them much easier. And you won't have to think or translate –

the structures will just come out automatically.

### 3 Grammatical sentences

Another good method is to create a list of grammatical sentences. For example, if you were focusing on the Present Simple, you could write sentences like, "Keira lives in America", or "Jack doesn't like it." Then, make a recording of the sentences (or get a native speaker to do it for you). In your free-time, you can listen to the sentences and repeat them out loud after the speaker. The idea is to practise them until you've **learnt them by heart** and you can say them without thinking.

### 4 Grammar drills

You can also use grammar drills to develop your ability to form negatives or questions. You can do them on your own, with a friend or with your teacher. Simply say a sentence in a particular tense, then create the negative or question forms. For example: *She went to the shops. / She didn't go to the shops. / Did she go to the shops?* You could use your list of grammatical sentences from the previous paragraph for this.

## Understanding how to use basic structures

Now comes the hard part: learning how to use the structures.

### 5 An overview

The first thing you want to do is to get a quick overview of how the verb tenses are used. For example, most basic grammar books will

tell you that the Present Simple is sometimes used for giving opinions: *I think it's good / We don't like it*. Most verb tenses have a few basic "rules" of usage like this that you can learn in a matter of minutes.

### 6 Using the language

Once you've got a basic understanding of the tenses, you need to practise using them when you're speaking or writing. You also need to read and listen to lots of English so you can see the language in context.

### 7 Common mistakes

As you're speaking or writing, make a note of any mistakes you make, or ask a teacher or friend to help you. Then, work on trying to eliminate these mistakes. For example, if you keep saying, "**He like it**" instead of "He likes it". Try repeating the sentence 10 times a day until you've got it firmly implanted in your mind.

### 8 Reading & listening

However, the best way to improve your knowledge of grammar is by reading and listening. Children learn their first language without studying any grammar – they simply **pick it up** naturally by being **exposed** to it. You can do the same if you read and listen to English enough. In fact, the more you read and listen, the more language you'll **absorb**, and the more you'll see how the language **fits together** (which is what grammar is all about). So, read articles in English, watch TV series, listen to the news, read a magazine, watch YouTube videos, read a graded reader, listen to audio

files from language courses... the options are limitless!

Language is all about communication – it isn't a set of rules. And the end objective isn't to have perfect "grammar", it's to communicate effectively. Grammar has its part to play, but it shouldn't be the central focus of your learning. It's interesting to find out about the order of adjectives, the use of articles, or the position of adverbs. However, you'll learn much more through reading, listening, writing and speaking the language! ☆

## \*VERB TENSES

The main verb tenses in English are: the verb to *be*, the Present Simple, the Present Continuous, the Past Simple, the Present Perfect, the Present Perfect Continuous, Future forms (*will* + a verb; *be* + going to + a verb), the Future Continuous, the Future Perfect, Modal verbs, the Past Continuous, Passive forms, the Past Perfect and Conditionals (zero, I, II, III).

## GLOSSARY

**grammar** *n*  
the way that words are combined or joined to make sentences

**a pattern** *n*  
a "pattern" is the way something happens again and again or many times

**to memorise** *vb*  
if you "memorise" something, you learn it so that you can remember it exactly

**to conjugate** *vb*  
if you "conjugate" a verb, you create the different forms: *I run, you run, she runs*, etc.

**to learn by heart** *exp*  
if you "learn something by heart", you learn it so you can say it exactly without having to read it

**to pick up** *phr vb*  
to learn

**to expose** *vb*  
if you're "exposed" to language, you hear it or see it

**to absorb** *vb*  
if you "absorb" information, you learn and understand it

**to fit together** *exp*  
the way a language "fits together" is the way that the words join or combine to form sentences, phrases, expressions, etc.

# 8 songs

## WITH PHRASAL VERBS

Learn 8 useful phrasal verbs from these fantastic songs. Listen to the song extracts. Then, complete the definitions of the phrasal verbs.

happening   leave   survive   depend   continues   wait   escape   feel

### 1 I Get Along With You Very Well

Artist: Chet Baker

Phrasal verb:  
**get along**

Chet Baker (born 1929) was an American jazz trumpeter and vocalist.

He was one of the stars of the Gerry Mulligan Quartet in the 1950s. He died in May 1988.

*I get along without you very well, of course, I do,  
Except perhaps in spring,  
But I should never think of spring.*

If you "get along" without something, you manage to live or (1) \_\_\_\_\_ without it.

### 2 Hold On We're Going Home

Artist: Drake

Phrasal verb: **to hold on**

Drake (real name Aubrey Drake Graham) is a Canadian rapper, songwriter and actor. He was born in Toronto, Ontario, (Canada) in 1986.

*'Cause you're a good girl and you know it,  
I know exactly who you could be,  
Just hold on, we're going home,  
Just hold on, we're going home.*

If you have to "hold on", you have to (2) \_\_\_\_\_.

### 3 What's Going On

Artist:

Marvin Gaye

Phrasal verb: **to go on**

Marvin Gaye (1939) was an American singer-songwriter and musician. Marvin was signed up to Motown Records in the 1960s. He had a number of hits, including *How Sweet It Is*.

*Picket lines and picket signs,  
Don't punish me with brutality,  
Talk to me so you can see,  
What's going on.*

If something is "going on", it's (3) \_\_\_\_\_.

### 4 I Want To Get Away

Artist: Lenny Kravitz

Phrasal verb:  
**to get away**

Lenny Kravitz (born 1964) is an American rock singer-songwriter, record producer and actor. His style of music incorporates elements of rock, soul, R&B, funk, reggae, hard rock, psychedelic and folk.

*Let's fade into the sun, let your spirit fly,  
Where we are one, just for a little fun,  
Oh, oh, oh, yeah! I want to get away,  
I want to fly away. Yeah.*

If you want to "get away" from a place, you want to (4) \_\_\_\_\_ from that place.

If you "fly away", you escape from a place quickly, or literally by flying.





### 5 **The Show Must Go On**

**Artist:** Queen

**Phrasal verb:** *to go on*

Queen were a British rock band from London.

They were formed in 1970 and consisted of Freddie Mercury, Brian May, John Deacon and Roger Taylor.

Famous Queen songs include *We Will Rock You* and *We Are The Champions*.

*The show must go on!  
The show must go on! Yeah!  
Inside my heart is breaking,  
My make-up may be flaking...*

If an event "goes on", it (5) \_\_\_\_\_, in spite of any difficulties.



### 7 **Get Over It**

**Artist:**

Avril Lavigne

**Phrasal verb:** *to get over*

Avril Lavigne (1984) is a Canadian singer-songwriter. She was born in Belleville, Ontario, (Canada). She moved to New York City at the age of 16 to work on her first album.

*Hey, you gotta get over it,  
It's too bad I'm not sad, it's casting over,  
It's just one of those things,  
You'll have to get over it.*

If you "get over" something bad, you start to (7) \_\_\_\_\_ happy again after that bad thing (such as breaking up with a boy or girlfriend).



**6**

### **Breakaway**

**Artist:**

Kelly Clarkson

**Phrasal verb:**

*to break away*

Kelly Clarkson (1982) is an American singer-songwriter. She won the first season of American Idol in 2002.

*Trying hard to reach out, but when I tried to speak out,  
Felt like no one could hear me, wanted to belong here,  
But something felt so wrong here,  
so I prayed I could break away.*

If you "break away" from a person, situation or place, you (6) \_\_\_\_\_ that person, situation or place. The song also has the phrasal verb "reach out" (to try to connect with someone) and "speak out" (to say what you really feel or think).



### 8 **You Can't Count On Me**

**Artist:** Counting Crows

**Phrasal verb:** *to count on*

Counting Crows is an American rock band from Berkeley, California, (USA).

They were formed in 1991 and released their **debut album**, *August and Everything After*, in 1993.

*If you think you need to go,  
If you wanted to be free,  
There's just one thing you need to know,  
And that's that you can't count on me.*

If you can't "count on" someone, you can't (8) \_\_\_\_\_ on that person to help you. ☹

**Objective** To learn some business tips from world-famous entrepreneurs and increase your range of vocabulary.

**Think about it** What online retail websites or apps have you heard of? Have you ever used any of them? What was it like? Did you manage to buy or sell anything? How easy was the site or app to use? Why do you think eBay is so successful? What makes eBay different to other online retailers? What's the key to its success?

FOLLOW  
YOUR  
PASSION!

## VIDEO

YouTube

Listen to Pierre Omidyar giving some business advice. Search YouTube for "Pierre Omidyar Advice To Entrepreneurs - Founder of eBay Inc".

## GLOSSARY

**an online retailer** *n*  
a website where you can buy or sell things  
**eBay** *n*  
a website where you can buy and sell things or put things up for "auction" (see entry below)  
**a transaction** *n*  
an act of buying or selling something  
**to drive** *vb*  
the things that "drive" you are the things that motivate you or make you want to act  
**unique** *adj*  
a "unique" person is special and different  
**an auction** *n*  
a public sale in which goods are sold to the person who offers the highest price  
**to empower** *vb*  
if you "empower" someone, you give them things so they can become stronger or more successful  
**a feedback forum** *n*  
a place where people can give opinions or feedback (criticism) and discuss things  
**to exchange tips** *exp*  
if people "exchange tips", they offer "tips" (useful pieces of advice or information)  
**to rate** *vb*  
if you "rate" something, you say how good (or bad) you think it is  
**expansion** *n*  
if a company is going through a period of "expansion", it's growing or becoming bigger  
**a disruption** *n*  
when there's "disruption", there are problems and things don't work or operate in a normal way  
**to apologise** *vb*  
to say sorry to someone  
**an inconvenience** *n*  
a problem or difficulty  
**a trader** *n*  
a person who buys or sells things  
**one man's junk is another man's treasure** *exp*  
this expression means: the thing that one person thinks is "junk" (rubbish), another person thinks is "treasure" (valuable)  
**trainers** *n*  
shoes you wear to do sport  
**rusty** *adj*  
if a metal object is "rusty", it has a brown substance on it that forms when it comes into contact with water  
**scratched** *adj*  
if a record (for example) is "scratched", it has a cut on it  
**to trade** *vb*  
to buy and sell things  
**an insight** *n*  
a good understanding of something  
**a Pez candy dispenser** *exp*  
Pez is the brand name of a type of rectangular sweet. The sweets come in a "dispenser" (a machine that gives you something when you press a button, etc.)  
**a chairman** *n*  
the head of a company or organisation  
**an IPO** *n abbr*  
an Initial Public Offering. This is the first sale of a company's stocks or shares to the public  
**a philanthropist** *n*  
someone who gives money to charities or poor people

# MR eBAY PIERRE OMIDYAR

**P**ierre Omidyar is the founder of the **online retailer eBay**. With sales of around \$20 billion per year and more than 200 million registered users, eBay processes more **transactions** than any other company in the world. Here are five important tips that took Pierre to the top.

### 1 Follow your passion

Pierre puts passion first. "Like most software people, it's very much passion more than anything else – the ability to create software that could benefit or have an impact on people that used it was what was **driving** me," he says. If you love what you do, you'll never do a day's work, so the saying goes.

### 2 Believe in the power of the individual

Pierre believes that it's important to "recognise and respect everyone as a **unique** individual". In creating his online **auction** empire in 1993, Pierre wanted to **empower** individuals. So, he provided a **feedback forum** where both buyers and sellers could **exchange tips**, solve problems and **rate** their purchasing experiences.

### 3 Treat your customers with the respect they deserve

eBay's rapid **expansion** didn't come without its problems. But it's how these problems are managed that shows a company's true character and strength. In 1999,

the site experienced numerous service **disruptions**, one lasting 22 hours. Pierre reacted quickly and responsibly by getting his team to make 10,000 phone calls to the top customers to **apologise** for the **inconvenience**. He assured them that eBay was doing everything possible to deal with the problem.

### 4 Understand human nature

Pierre thinks that there's a natural **trader** in everyone. He understands that people love to buy things, and that many have a "**one man's junk is another man's treasure**" philosophy. And this is the key to the success of eBay, where you can sell just about anything from broken **trainers** to **rusty** spanners to **scratched** records. "Fundamentally, everything we do in human activities is related to **trade**," Pierre once said. There's no better way to succeed in business than having good **insight** into human behaviour.

### Bio - Pierre Omidyar

Pierre Omidyar is the founder and **chairman** of eBay. He was born in Paris (France) in 1967 to Iranian parents. When he was still a young child, they moved to the USA. eBay has its headquarters in San Jose, California and was founded in September 1995. It was originally called Auction Web. The first item sold on the site was a broken laser pointer. Pierre became a billionaire at the age of 31 with eBay's 1998 IPO (Initial Public Offering). Pierre lives in Hawaii with his wife Pamela and their three children. According to *Forbes*, he's worth approximately \$8.5 billion. Omidyar and his wife Pamela are well-known **philanthropists**.

### 5 Prepare for the unexpected

In an often repeated story, Pierre originally set up an online auction site just to help his wife sell and collect **Pez candy dispensers**. Although he admitted in an interview with the Academy of Achievement that the story had been invented, he still advises potential entrepreneurs to "prepare for the unexpected". "You'll know you're successful when the platform you've built serves you in unexpected ways," he added. ✨



# FRAGRANT FRIED RICE



Learn how to make Gordon Ramsay's delicious fragrant fried rice.

## Ingredients

- 1 Olive oil
- 2 Salt
- 3 Pepper
- 4 Rice
- 5 Garlic
- 6 Ginger
- 7 Chilli
- 8 Spring onions
- 9 Spring greens
- 10 A head of broccoli
- 11 Fish sauce
- 12 Eggs
- 13 Lime



## Process

1. Cook some rice and leave to **cool** (or use some **leftover** rice).
2. Chop up some garlic, ginger and chilli. In a separate bowl, put some chopped spring onions and spring greens. Also, **trim** a head of broccoli.
3. **Whisk** two eggs.
4. Put a pan or wok on the cooker and heat it. Add some oil. When the oil is hot, add the garlic, ginger and chilli and fry. Then, add the spring greens and broccoli, plus a bit of water to **steam**.
5. Add the cooked rice and mix. Then, make a **well** in the middle.
6. Add the eggs, spring onion and a **dash** of fish sauce into the well.
7. Scramble the eggs. Then mix in with the other ingredients and **season** with salt and pepper.
8. **Top** with some lime and spring onions.

Now you're ready to eat your delicious fried rice! ☆

## VIDEO

YouTube

Watch Gordon Ramsay make some fried rice. Search YouTube for "Gordon Ramsay Easy Fried Rice".

## GLOSSARY

**to cool** *vb*  
if food "cools", it becomes colder  
**leftover** *adj*  
"leftover" food is food that you haven't eaten from a previous meal  
**to trim** *vb*  
to cut  
**to whisk** *vb*  
if you "whisk" eggs, you mix them together quickly with a fork, etc.  
**to steam** *vb*  
if you "steam" food, you cook it in the steam (vapour) from hot water  
**a well** *n*  
a small hole you make in food  
**a dash of** *exp*  
a small amount of liquid  
**to season** *vb*  
to add salt, pepper, etc.  
**to top** *with* *exp*  
if you "top" a dish "with" some pieces of lime (for example), you put those pieces of lime on top of the food

# BLACK SWAN



*Black Swan* is an American **psychological thriller**. It's directed by Darren Aronofsky and stars Natalie Portman, Vincent Cassel and Mila Kunis. A New York City ballet company is planning to **put on** a production of Tchaikovsky's Swan Lake. Thomas, the artistic director (played by Vincent Cassel) thinks Nina (Natalie Portman) can

play the innocent and **fragile** White Swan, but doesn't feel she can handle the **role** of the Black Swan. Nina is desperate to get the part, but now finds that she has to compete for it with new arrival Lily (played by Mila Kunis). The pressure starts to affect Nina, who eventually **descends into a living nightmare**. In this scene from the film, Nina is in the dance studio. She's **upset** because the director has tried to kiss her.



## The script

N=Nina L=Lily

- N: [Nina sees a dark figure at the door.] Who's that?  
L: Hi. [She puts a cigarette in her mouth.] You OK?  
N: You can't smoke in here.  
L: Well, I won't tell if you won't. So, **big day's** getting closer and closer, huh? I can't wait. I think you're going to be amazing.  
N: [Lily gives Nina the cigarette and lights it for her.] Thanks...  
L: So, do you wanna talk about it?  
N: I just **had a hard day**.  
L: What? Leroy playing a little too **rough** for you? Come on Nina, he's...  
N: He's brilliant.  
L: Sure, but it's not like he's all **warm and fuzzy**.  
N: Well, you don't know him.  
L: Someone's **hot for teacher**? Oh, come on. It's OK. I **don't blame** you.  
N: I should go home.  
L: Oh, Nina come on! I'm just **playing around**. ☆

## VIDEO

YouTube

Watch the clip from the film. Search YouTube for "Black Swan #4 Movie CLIP - Hot for Teacher (2010) HD".

## GLOSSARY

**a psychological thriller** *n*  
an exciting film that's full of suspense and is about the mental state of a character  
**to put on** *phr vb*  
if a company "puts on" a production of a play, they produce that play and arrange for it to be shown in a theatre  
**fragile** *adj*  
very weak and not strong  
**a role** *n*  
a part in a play or film  
**to descend into a living nightmare** *exp*  
if someone "descends into a living nightmare", they start having a very bad experience  
**upset** *adj*  
angry and sad  
**the big day** *n*  
an important day when you're going to do something special  
**to have a hard day** *exp*  
if you've "had a hard day", you've had a difficult day in which many things went wrong  
**rough** *adj*  
someone who is "rough" uses violence or force  
**warm and fuzzy** *exp*  
nice and friendly  
**be hot for someone** *exp*  
to like someone very much; to find someone sexually attractive  
**I don't blame you** *exp*  
I understand you  
**to play around** *phr vb*  
to joke with

**Objective** To improve your reading and listening skills.

**Think about it** What type of person does a con artist have to be? Do you know anyone who's ever been conned? What happened? How much did it cost them? Have you seen any films about con artists? Which ones?

**Exams** This reading and listening activity will help prepare you for English exams such as FCE, IELTS and TOEFL.

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IT'S ALL A CON!



# WATCH OUT FOR THE CON ARTISTS!

**C**on artists are expert thieves who could quite easily convince you to lend them money, **invest** with them, or write them a cheque. They're **confidence tricksters** who can **pose as** police officers, lawyers, bankers or doctors to **gain your trust** then break that trust. Here are three famous con artists.

## 1 The rock legend

Phillip Schaeffer from Minnesota avoided paying expensive bills at a private hospital by claiming he was Pink Floyd rock legend David Gilmour. Another time, he told staff at a different medical centre that he was Rush guitarist Alex Lifeson. On each occasion, he informed staff that his **agent** would deal with the bills. However, admin staff at one of the hospitals became suspicious. The security supervisor reviewed camera shots of Schaeffer entering the hospital. He then compared them to pictures of the Pink Floyd singer-guitarist, and soon realised that the man wasn't who he claimed to be. When Schaeffer returned to the hospital four days later, he was **confronted** by a police officer who happened to be there at the time. Schaeffer admitted that he'd been lying and was taken to Stearns County Jail on a charge of theft by **swindle**.

## 2 The banker

Christophe Rocancourt (born July 1967) is a French confidence trickster who **scammed** rich people. For his first big **con** he **faked** the **deed** to a house he didn't own, then sold the property for \$1.4 million. With the police **hot on his trail**,

Christophe made his way to the United States. While in Los Angeles, he pretended to be a movie producer, an ex-boxing champion and a **venture capitalist**, among many other things. He **dropped names** like "his mother" Sophia Loren or "his uncle" Dino De Laurentiis, and claimed to be a French member of the **Rockefeller** family. He lived for a time with Mickey Rourke, and was also friends with actor Jean-Claude Van Damme. During his time there, he persuaded wealthy people to invest in his financial schemes, then ran off with their money. Many were too **embarrassed** to report him to the police. He **fled** to Canada, but was eventually captured and sentenced to five years in prison.

## 3 The pilot

Frank William Abagnale, Jr. (born 27th April 1948) is the **inspiration** behind the Steven Spielberg film *Catch Me if you Can*. He had at least eight **aliases**, and escaped from police custody twice (once from a moving aeroplane) – and all that before he was 21 years old. Incredibly, between the ages of 16 and 18, he flew over 1,600,000 km for free on over 250 flights to 26 countries by posing as a Pan Am pilot. He got a uniform by calling the airline headquarters and telling them that he'd lost his. Later, he made a fake employee ID card, and **forged** a Federal Aviation Administration pilot's licence. As a company pilot, he was able to stay at hotels for free, with all food and hotel bills sent to the airline. Frank was eventually caught

and sentenced to 12 years in prison. However, he served less than five years before starting to work for the FBI (for no pay initially), helping them identify **scams**.

What a change! ☺

## VIDEO

YouTube

Watch a trailer for the film *Catch me if you Can*. Search YouTube for "Catch Me If You Can Trailer".

## GLOSSARY

**a con artist** *n*  
a person who tricks people in order to get money from them  
**to invest** *vb*  
if you "invest" money in a company (for example), you put money into that company and hope to make a profit  
**a confidence trickster** *n*  
a person who tricks people in order to get money from them  
**to pose as** *exp*  
if you "pose as" a police officer (for example), you act as if you're a police officer, even though you aren't  
**to gain your trust** *exp*  
if someone "gains your trust", they make you trust (believe) them  
**an agent** *n*  
a musician's "agent" is the person who represents and manages them  
**to confront** *vb*  
if you "confront" someone with something, you present facts or evidence to them in order to accuse them of something  
**a swindle** *n*  
a trick thieves use to steal money  
**to scam** *vb*  
to trick someone in order to make money dishonestly  
**a con** *n*  
a dishonest act or a trick that is designed to make money  
**to fake** *vb*  
if you "fake" a document, you make it look real or genuine, even though it isn't  
**a deed** *n*  
a legal document that says who owns a house  
**hot on your trail** *exp*  
if the police are "hot on your trail", they're following you and are close to catching you  
**a venture capitalist** *n*  
a person who invests in new or small companies with the aim of making a profit  
**to drop names** *exp*  
to mention the names of the famous people you know  
**Rockefeller** *n*  
a famous American family that became very rich from the oil business  
**embarrassed** *adj*  
if you're "embarrassed" about something, you're ashamed of it and you don't want other people to know about it  
**to flee** *vb* (*past: fled*)  
to escape  
**an inspiration** *n*  
if someone is an "inspiration" for a film, they're the person who gave the writer or director the ideas for the film  
**an alias** *n*  
a false name  
**to forge** *vb*  
if you "forge" a document, you make a copy of it that looks exactly like the original

Answers on page 44

## 1 Pre-reading

What sort of things do con artists do? Make a list. For example: sell you shares that aren't worth anything; write you a bad cheque; sell you a property that doesn't belong to them...

## 2 Reading I

Read or listen to the article once. Which con artist is the cleverest? In what way? Why?

## 3 Reading II

Read the article again. Then, write Phillip, Christophe or Frank next to each statement.

- Many of his victims were too embarrassed to admit what had happened.
- He said his agent would deal with any demands for payment.
- He pulled off some of his most spectacular cons when he was still a teenager.
- He avoided paying some expensive hospital bills.
- He tried to pass himself off as a musician.
- He now helps a crime detection agency fight against con artists.
- He rubbed shoulders with the rich and famous.
- He tried to pass himself off as an airline employee.

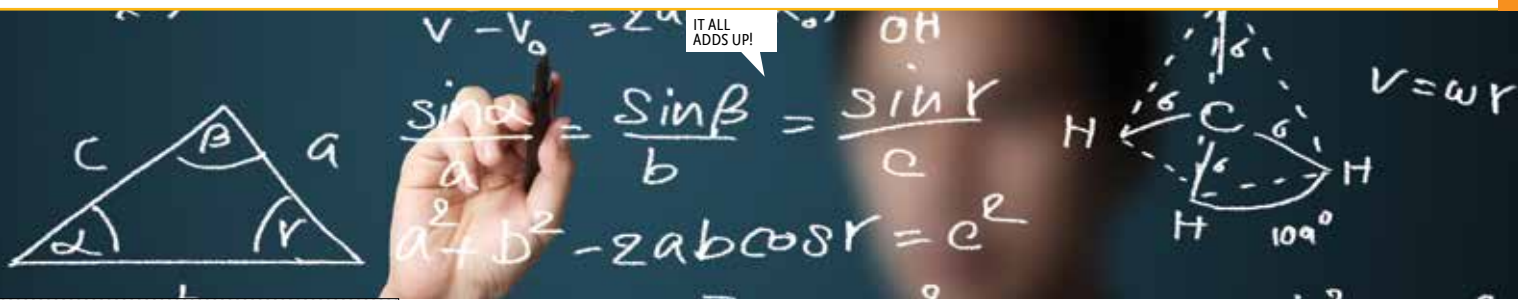


**Objective** To improve your reading and listening skills.

**Think about it** How would you rate your maths skills? What do you need maths for in your daily life? What about at work? How useful is it for you to be good at maths? Do you think maths is fun? In what way? What area of maths would you like to work on? Why?

**Exams** This reading and listening activity will help prepare you for English exams such as FCE, IELTS and TOEFL.

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Answers on page 44

## 1 Pre-reading

Do you know how to say these sums and numbers in English?

1.  $1 + 4 = 5$
2.  $12 - 4 = 8$
3.  $6 \times 2 = 12$
4.  $12 \div 4 = 3$
5. 1.3
6. 4,000
7. 436
8. 320,987

## 2 Reading I

Read or listen to the article once. How many of the questions at the end did you get correct?

## 3 Reading II

Read the article again. Then, answer the questions.

1. What problems could maths (and science) help us solve, according to Julie Dunkle?
2. By how much could the annual growth rate in GDP increase by with better maths test scores, according to Eric Hanushek?
3. What percentage (more or less) of over 18s found it hard to calculate change in shops?
4. How much could poor maths skills be costing the UK economy every year?
5. What has the UK government spent some of the £11 million on in order to raise standards?
6. What happens if you don't do too well on the National Numeracy online maths challenge?

# HOW MATHS CAN SAVE THE ECONOMY!

**M**aths can help create a more competitive economy... and get you a better job. But how?

Experts believe that maths is the **key** to creating a competitive economy. "Fluency in maths is needed to understand science, and science creates the innovations that will help solve the **challenges** we face, such as **swine flu** and **global warming**," explained Julie Dunkle, US education project manager for Intel in an article for the *Wall Street Journal*.

There's even been a study on the **link** between maths and a healthy economy. Eric Hanushek, a Stanford University professor, concluded that increasing test scores in maths could add two-thirds of a percentage point to the annual growth rate in **GDP**. Interestingly, Hanushek's study measured quality (improvement in test scores) rather than quantity (years of schooling).

The problem is that many people **struggle with** maths. In the UK, a survey of more than 2,300 adults found that a third of over 18s found it hard to calculate change in shops, and weigh and measure ingredients; and many parents have problems helping their children with their homework. Almost 25% rated their maths as no better than "satisfactory", and a further 7% said their

skills were "poor" or "very poor".

In the UK, it's thought that poor maths skills could be costing the economy more than £20 billion a year. But poor maths can affect your **job prospects** too. "A lack of everyday number skills not only **threatens** the economy and the competitiveness on the country's job market but can also ruin an individual's chances in life...", said Graham Beale, the Nationwide Building Society's chief executive. "Maths commands the highest earnings in the jobs market and is the best protection against unemployment," he added.

So, what's the government doing about it? Firstly, they've recruited some Chinese maths teachers as part of an £11m programme to **raise standards**. "Good maths comes with constant practice but there seems to be an **aversion to** practice in this country. We have a lot to learn from China," said Nick Gibb, the former Conservative Schools Minister. As part of the scheme, Chinese teachers will be sent to work in English schools.

The charity National Numeracy has also created an online maths challenge for adults. After taking the test, and depending on the results, adults are referred to a series of learning resources to **boost** their skills. The

move has been **backed** by the Department for Education.

So, how good are you at maths in English? Listen to the following questions and write down your answers. Then, check the Answers page to see how well you've done. 🌟

## MATHS CHALLENGE

Try the National Numeracy Challenge. Type into Google "national numeracy challenge + Guardian" and do the test.

## VIDEO

YouTube

See if you can answer this maths question. Search YouTube for "The Wanted Maths Quiz".

## GLOSSARY

**a key** <sup>1</sup>  
the "key" to a good situation is the best way to create that good situation  
**a challenge** <sup>1</sup>  
something new and difficult which requires a lot of effort  
**swine flu** <sup>1</sup>  
a form of flu that affects pigs. If you've got the "flu", you're ill and it feels as if you've got a really bad cold  
**global warming** <sup>1</sup>  
a gradual increase in the overall temperature of the earth's atmosphere. Many people believe it's caused by pollution, etc.  
**a link** <sup>1</sup>  
a connection  
**GDP** <sup>abbr</sup>  
Gross Domestic Product - the value of all the goods produced in a country  
**to struggle with** <sup>exp</sup>  
if you "struggle with" something, you find it difficult to do that thing  
**a job prospect** <sup>1</sup>  
if you have good "job prospects", there's a good possibility that you'll find a good job because you're well-qualified, etc.  
**to threaten** <sup>vb</sup>  
if A "threatens" B, A is a danger to B  
**to raise standards** <sup>exp</sup>  
to improve the level, standard or quality of something  
**an aversion to** <sup>exp</sup>  
if you have an "aversion to" something, you don't like that thing  
**to boost** <sup>vb</sup>  
to increase  
**to back** <sup>vb</sup>  
to support or help

**Objective** To improve your reading and listening skills.

**Think about it** What presents do you give when you go to visit someone or stay with them? What are some of the best presents you've ever received? What's the most expensive present you've ever given someone? Who was it for?

**Exams** This reading and listening activity will help prepare you for English exams such as FCE, IELTS and TOEFL.

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IS THAT IT?

# THE DIPLOMATIC ART OF GIVING GIFTS!

When was the last time you gave someone a present? In the world of **diplomacy**, it's common to offer **gifts** to visiting kings, queens, presidents and prime ministers; or to bring presents for representatives of a **host country**. The gifts range from the ordinary to the **absurd**. Here are a few examples.

The royal family receives a lot of gifts, some of which are really unusual. A list from 2013 included a state **coach** made out of chocolate, a portrait of the Queen burnt into tree bark, a plastic stand-up angel, a garden gnome and a book titled *Your Arms Remind Me of Pork Luncheon Meat*.

Sometimes, the royals are given **live** animals. In 1764, King George III was presented with a cheetah while in India; and in 1827, King George IV was given a giraffe by the **pasha** of Egypt. The present-day Queen has received two black beavers from Canada, and was once given an elephant and a crocodile during a visit to Gambia.

President Obama seems to be popular, **judging by** the number of gifts he receives. Canadian Prime Minister Stephen Harper once gave Mr Obama a ball signed by the 2011 Toronto Raptors professional basketball team, as well as a golden-framed, 19th-century antique map of North America. Queen Elizabeth II presented the president with a leather-bound volume entitled *A Selection of Papers*

From the Royal Archives 1834-1897, and a **brooch** with **gold leaves** to First Lady Michelle Obama. Prince Charles once gave the Obamas a 15-piece **china tea set**.

Nicolas Sarkozy (the ex president of France) is an extremely generous gift-giver. In 2011, he gave the Obamas presents worth more than \$40,000. The list of goodies included a large black Hermès golf accessory bag, two Baccarat **crystal** table lamps on silver **pedestals**, a **monogrammed** black leather Louis Vuitton business bag, and a glass sculpture of Alexander the Great's horse.

Others aren't quite so imaginative. On a visit to China, David Cameron gave the Chinese Premier Li Keqiang a collection of books, a pair of gloves and a tennis racket signed by Andy Murray, among other things. In return, Cameron received a painting of a horse, and a model of a Chinese bullet train. And Cameron gave Russian leader Vladimir Putin a framed photo of the pair of them watching the judo at the London Olympics. Cameron got a bottle of Armenian cognac in return. One of the most thoughtful gifts ever was the one given by ex Prime Minister Gordon Brown to Barack Obama. He proudly presented the president with a **pen holder** made from the **timbers** of the Victorian **anti-slavery ship**, HMS Gannet.

Unfortunately for Brown, the presents he received weren't quite as impressive: two models of the presidential

helicopter (Marine One) for his sons, and a box set of 25 DVDs of classic American films. It later **transpired** that the DVDs were **incompatible** with British DVD players, so he couldn't watch them.

Poor old Gordon! ☹️

## VIDEO

YouTube

Watch President Obama give a present to the Pope. Search YouTube for "President Obama presents gift to Pope Francis".

## GLOSSARY

**diplomacy** *n*  
the activity of managing relations between different countries

**a gift** *n*  
a present; something nice that you give to someone

**a host country** *n*  
a country that has received a special visitor such as a president of another country, etc.

**absurd** *adj*  
ridiculous, stupid, silly

**a coach** *n*  
a vehicle with wheels that is pulled by horses

**live** *adj*  
a "live" animal is alive (not dead)

**a Pasha** *n*  
an important official in the Ottoman Empire (an empire that ruled from what is now modern-day Turkey from 1300 until 1920, more or less)

**judging by** *exp*  
we often use "judging by" to introduce the reasons why we think something is true

**a brooch** *n*  
a small piece of jewellery with a pin at the back so you can put it on a jacket, etc.

**gold leaves** *n*  
gold in the form of very thin sheets, often used to decorate objects

**china** *n*  
a hard white substance made from clay. It's used to make cups, bowls, plates, etc.

**a tea set** *n*  
a set of cups, dishes, etc. used to serve tea

**crystal** *n*  
a transparent rock that's used to make jewellery

**a pedestal** *n*  
the base for a statue, etc.

**monogrammed** *adj*  
if an object is "monogrammed", it has the first letters of a person's name on it

**a pen holder** *n*  
an object used for holding a pen

**a timber** *n*  
wood that is used for building houses, ships, etc.

**an anti-slavery ship** *n*  
a ship that was used to stop ships transporting slaves

**to transpire** *vb*  
when it "transpires" that something is true, people discover that it is actually true

**incompatible** *adj*  
if A is "incompatible" with B, A and B are very different and they can't be used together

Answers on page 44

## 1 Pre-reading

Look at the list of gifts below. Which three would you like to receive? Why?

an elephant   a basketball ball

an antique map   a cheetah

a golf accessory bag

a giraffe   a brooch   beavers

a tennis racket signed by Andy Murray

a box set of 25 DVDs

a painting of a horse

a bottle of Armenian cognac

## 2 Reading I

Read or listen to the article once. Which gift is the most absurd? Which one is the best? Why?

## 3 Reading II

Read the article again. Then, write gifts from the Pre-reading activity next to each person.

1. Queen Elizabeth II
2. King George III
3. King George IV
4. David Cameron
5. President Obama
6. First Lady Michelle Obama
7. Chinese Premier Li Keqiang
8. Ex-Prime Minister Gordon Brown



**Outskirts**

The “outskirts” of a city or town are the parts of it that are far from the centre.

**“We had to get a train to my sister’s house as she lives in the outskirts.”**

**High-rise flats**

Large buildings with many floors and flats (or apartments) on each floor.

**“The eastern part of the city has lots of ugly, high-rise flats.”**

**The suburbs**

The outer area of large towns and cities where people live, often in bigger houses with gardens.

**“They’ve got a nice house in the suburbs.”**

**Lively nightlife**

If a city has a “lively nightlife”, there are lots of bars, clubs, restaurants, etc. with a good atmosphere.

**“For a lively nightlife, head off to the western part of the city.”**

**An office block**

A large building with many floors and offices on each floor.

**“There are lots of office blocks in the financial district.”**

**Pavement café**

A café with tables outside on the pavement where you can sit and have a drink.

**“We sat in a pavement café and watched the people walking by.”**

**Residential area**

An area where people live. There aren’t many shops or offices here.

**“The northern part of the city is mostly residential.”**

**Run-down**

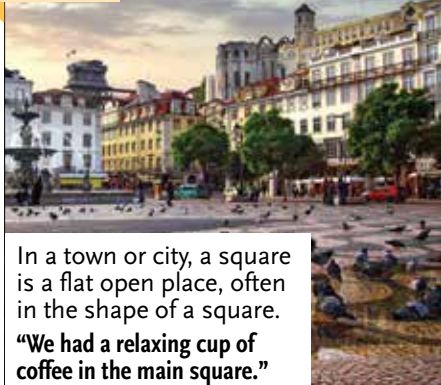
Old and of a poor standard.

**“Many of the buildings in the centre were run-down.”**

**Sprawling**

A “sprawling” city covers a wide area. You often need a car to travel around it.

**“It’s a large sprawling city without a real centre.”**

**Square**

In a town or city, a square is a flat open place, often in the shape of a square.

**“We had a relaxing cup of coffee in the main square.”**

**Quarter**

A “quarter” of a town is a part of the town where a particular group of people traditionally live or work.

**“The hotels in the French quarter are excellent.”**

**Upmarket shops**

Fashionable shops that sell expensive goods.

**“There are a lot of upmarket shops in the main street.”**



**Objective** To improve your reading and listening skills.

**Think about it** How often do you hug people? Who do you hug in general? Who was the last person you hugged? Why did you hug them? Why do you think some people give away free hugs? Why do people want them?

**Exams** This reading and listening activity will help prepare you for English exams such as FCE, IELTS and TOEFL.

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## QUIRKY NEWS

# FREE HUGS – THE STORY!

Unusual news stories from around the world.

By Christian Olijve

**W**ould you ever hug a stranger? There's actually a movement that promotes free hugs that's known as the Free Hugs Campaign. Unfortunately, despite all the love, it didn't end too well.

The Free Hug Campaign is a social movement that involves offering strangers hugs in public places. They're meant to be **random acts of kindness** just to make you feel good. The person offering the hugs often makes a sign that reads "FREE HUGS", then holds it up in the street and waits for someone to ask for a hug.

The campaign was started by Australian **Juan Mann**\* in 2004. Juan had been living in London for almost a decade when he decided to return to Sydney after his girlfriend **called off** their **engagement**. On landing, he had nothing but his suitcase.

After about three months, an old friend invited him to a party. In an interview with WHO magazine, Juan said that while he was at the party, "...a completely random person **came up to me** and gave me a hug. I felt like a king! It was the greatest thing that ever happened." Then, he had an idea.

On 30th June 2004, Juan made a sign with the words FREE HUGS and offered his first hugs in the centre of the main shopping district in Sydney. "For the first 15 minutes, people just **stared right through** me. But then a woman **tapped** me on the shoulder and told me she needed a hug as it was the

anniversary of the death of a relative," said Juan. Things really took off after a FREE HUGS video was **uploaded** to YouTube. While in Sydney, Juan met Shimon Moore, an American musician. Shimon filmed Juan giving away free hugs. In mid-2006, Juan's grandmother died, and in **consolation** Shimon used the **footage** he had shot to make a music video for the song All the Same by his band The Sick Puppies. The video was later uploaded to YouTube, where it has been viewed over 70 million times.

As a result of the video, the Free Hugs movement became international. Branches were opened in Taiwan, Italy, America, Switzerland, Norway, India, Portugal and the UK. Juan was invited to tell his story on the Oprah Winfrey Show. A website ([www.freehugscampaign.org](http://www.freehugscampaign.org)) was launched in mid-2007, and an annual International Free Hugs Day was set on the first Saturday following 30th June as this was the anniversary of the first time that Juan ever offered free hugs in Sydney. Juan also wrote a book (The Illustrated Guide to Free Hugs), became an after-dinner speaker and published his address and mobile-phone number online, offering to go for a meal with anyone who contacted him.

Off the back of the YouTube video, Shimon and his band got a **record deal**, and they often sold Free Hugs **merchandise** at their concerts such as T-shirts and mugs with Juan's **distinctive** handwriting. But in an interview Juan gave to a New

York-based business news website in 2010, Juan said that all the **earnings** went straight to Shimon and his band members. "Needless to say," Juan continued, "we aren't friends anymore... I haven't seen a dollar from the band or the manager."

Perhaps they should give each other a hug! ☺

## \*JUAN MANN

This isn't his real name but it stands for "One Man", according to the pronunciation of "Juan".

## VIDEO

YouTube

Watch the Free Hugs video. Search YouTube for "Free Hugs Campaign - Official Page (music by Sick Puppies.net)".

## GLOSSARY

**a hug** *n*  
if you give someone a "hug", you put your arms around them and hold them

**a random act of kindness** *n*  
something nice that you do to someone suddenly and without expecting anything in return

**to call off** *phr vb*  
if you "call off" an event, you cancel it

**an engagement** *n*  
an agreement between two people to get married

**to come up to someone** *exp*  
to go close to someone so you can talk to them, etc.

**to stare through** *exp*  
if someone "stares through" you, they look ahead as they pass you without even looking at you

**to tap** *vb*  
if you "tap" someone on the shoulder, you touch them gently on the shoulder to tell them that you want to speak to them

**to upload** *vb*  
to put something onto a website from your computer

**in consolation** *exp*  
if you do something "in consolation", you do something nice to someone to make them feel happy because they're sad

**footage** *n*  
"footage" of a film is part of it

**a record deal** *n*  
an agreement with a record company to produce records

**merchandise** *n*  
objects such as T-shirts, cups, caps, pens, etc. with the logo, names or colours of a band, film or person on them

**distinctive** *adj*  
if something is "distinctive", you can notice it easily

**earnings** *n*  
the money you earn or receive

Answers on page 44

## 1 Pre-reading

Think of as many reasons as you can for giving someone a hug. For example: *They've just won a competition, they've just been given a promotion, they've just returned from a long trip...*

## 2 Reading I

You're going to read an article about the Free Hugs Campaign. Think of three questions to ask about it. Then, read or listen to the article once. Did you find the answers to any of your questions?

## 3 Reading II

Read the article again. Then, answer the questions.

1. Why did Juan Mann return to Australia?
2. Where was Juan when he got a hug from a completely random person?
3. Where was Juan when he gave his first free hug?
4. What's the name of Shimon Moore's band?
5. What's the name of the song used as background music to the Free Hugs video?
6. When is the annual Free Hugs Day?
7. What does the author of the article suggest Juan and Shimon should do?





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not show its ability to teach,  
but its ability to transmit the  
enjoyment of learning."*



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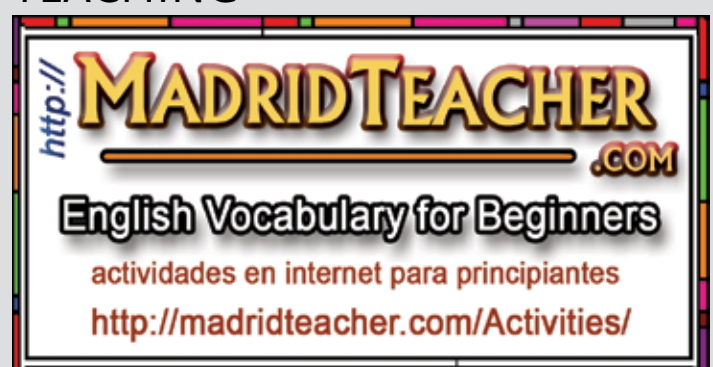
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### TEACHING



**Objective** To improve your listening skills.

**Think about it** Have you ever taken part in a conference call? What was it like? What was the topic? When was the last time you had to use a new operating system on your computer or smartphone? What was the new system like? What didn't you like about it? How did the change affect you? Did you want to switch back to the old system? Why?

**Exams** This listening activity will help prepare you for English exams such as FCE, IELTS and TOEFL.

TRACK 23: ENGLISH ACCENTS



# The conference call: getting feedback

## Note!

Don't read the audio script until you've completed the exercises and activities.

Answers on page 44

## 1 Pre-listening

What can go wrong during a conference call (a telephone call with more than two participants)? Make a list.

## 2 Listening I

You're going to listen to a conference call. George is trying to manage the call, but things don't seem to be going too well. Listen once. What problems do they have during the call?

## 3 Listening II

Listen again. Then, answer the questions.

1. Who is Patrick?
2. Who is Dave?
3. What's the main aim of the call?
4. What does George want to do first?
5. Who is Judy?
6. What is Patrick's problem with the guide?
7. What problem has Dave got with the guide?
8. What's the title on the document that Judy has?
9. Why couldn't Patrick try out the new system?
10. What happened to Judy when they turned on the new system?

## 4 Listening III

Listen again and complete the audio script with the correct words.

## Audio script

Complete the audio script with the correct words.

**George:** Good morning, everyone. George, here. Thanks for joining us. I know you're all busy so I'll try to keep it as brief as I can. Before we start, I'd just like to take a roll call. Patrick?

**Patrick:** Hi.

**George:** Hi, Patrick. For those of you (1) \_\_\_\_\_, Patrick is the sales manager in our London branch.

**Patrick:** Hi, everyone.

**George:** Dave?

**Dave:** Morning.

**George:** Morning. Dave's the marketing manager (2) \_\_\_\_\_.

**Dave:** Hi!

**George:** Judy? [Silence] Judy? [silence] OK, I'm sure she'll be joining us soon. Frank? [Silence] Frank? [Silence] Well, there seem to be (3) \_\_\_\_\_ missing. Anyway, as you know, the main aim today is to get your feedback on the new IT system that we've had installed. However, before we do that, I'd just like to go through a couple of things on the information guide (4) \_\_\_\_\_ on how to use the new system. Did you all get a copy?

**All:** Yes.

**Judy:** Hi everyone! It's Judy here. Sorry I'm late. I got caught up (5) \_\_\_\_\_.

**George:** Hi, Judy. No problem. Thanks for joining the call. Judy is the managing director of our New York branch.

**Judy:** Hi!

**George:** We were just going through the information guide.

**Patrick:** Hi, Patrick here. Erm, I can't seem to (6) \_\_\_\_\_, did you send it by e-mail?

**George:** Yes, Patrick.

**Patrick:** When was that?

**George:** Last Friday!

**Patrick:** Oh...

**George:** So, as I was saying, if you could just...

**Patrick:** Erm... would you mind sending it out again,

please?

**George:** OK, Patrick, hold on a sec. Now, while he's waiting for that, if you could all just look (7) \_\_\_\_\_.

**Judy:** Six? I'm sorry, but the document I've got only goes up to page three. Am I missing some pages?

**Dave:** Dave here. The one I've got only has two pages. Are you sure we've got the same document? What's (8) \_\_\_\_\_?

**Judy:** Judy here. Mine says "Implementing the New System".

**Dave:** Oh, that's strange because mine's like a sales report or something like that.

**George:** Look, people, I think there's been some confusion here. Let's just forget about the information guide for now. Erm, Patrick, why don't you give us your feedback (9) \_\_\_\_\_?

**Child:** Daddy! Michael ate my biscuit!

**Patrick:** [whispering to the child] Not now. I'm on the phone. Go and play with your brother. [to the callers] Sorry, I'll just close the door.

**George:** OK, Patrick, why don't you kick things off?

**Patrick:** Well, actually, we haven't used the new system yet. We've still been using (10) \_\_\_\_\_.

**George:** But I asked you to spend last Friday trying it out.

**Patrick:** I know, but we're in the middle of a project. We couldn't afford to miss any time as we had a (11) \_\_\_\_\_. Sorry!

**George:** Judy, what's your experience been of the new system?

**Judy:** I'm sorry but I can't hear you very well. Could you speak up, please?

**George:** I said, could you tell us about your experience of the new system?

**Judy:** Oh, yes, well, we turned it on for a bit early last week, but it crashed and we were without any power (12) \_\_\_\_\_, so we didn't sort of turn it on again after that. Then,... [fades out] ✨



## PROBLEMS

Learn 8 idioms for talking about problems.

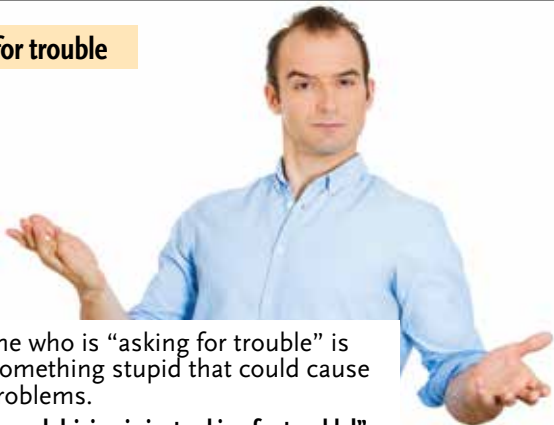
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**In hot water**

If you're "in hot water", you're in trouble with someone.  
**"That's the third time I've been late this week. I'm in hot water now."**

**Set alarm bells ringing**

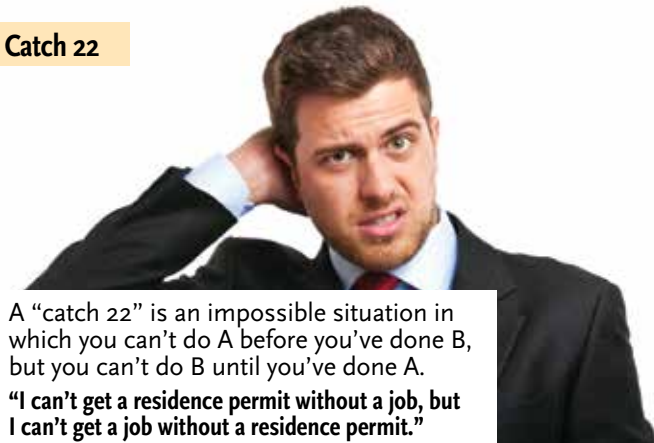
If something "sets alarm bells ringing", it makes you begin to worry.  
**"Alarm bells started to ring when the client didn't return our calls."**

**Asking for trouble**

Someone who is "asking for trouble" is doing something stupid that could cause them problems.  
**"Drinking and driving is just asking for trouble!"**

**Bite off more than you can chew**

If you bite off more than you can chew, you try to do something that is too difficult for you.  
**"As soon as I read over the instructions for the project, I realised that I'd bitten off more than I could chew."**

**Catch 22**

A "catch 22" is an impossible situation in which you can't do A before you've done B, but you can't do B until you've done A.  
**"I can't get a residence permit without a job, but I can't get a job without a residence permit."**

**We'll cross that bridge when we come to it**

We'll deal with that problem when it happens.

**A: What are we going to do if they ask for the money back?**

**B: We'll cross that bridge when we come to it.**

**In dire straits**

If you're "in dire straits", you're in a very difficult situation.  
**"The massive fine for undeclared tax has really put the company in dire straits."**

**In over your head**

If you're "in over your head", you're involved in something that is too difficult for you.  
**"I agreed to organise the concert, but soon realised that I was in over my head."**



**Objective** To improve your advanced listening skills by listening to several speakers chatting in an informal setting.

**Think about it** Is there anything that you regret not doing last week? What about last month or last year? What regrets do you have from your childhood? If you could go back in time, what would you change? Would you change the way you did anything? Would you do anything differently? What? Why?

© TRACK 24: SEVERAL ENGLISH ACCENTS

### Note!

Don't read the audio script until you've completed the exercises. Also, please note that when people chat informally, they often use non-standard English, rarely speak in full sentences and even make factual or grammatical mistakes as they're speaking fast.

Answers on page 44

## GROUP TALK

# CHATTING ABOUT REGRETS!

### 1 Listening I

You're going to listen to some people talking about regrets in their lives. What regrets do you have in life? Make a list. For example: *I should have studied harder at university; I wish I'd done some more travelling while I had the chance; I'd have loved to have studied abroad for a couple of years...* Then, listen once to compare your ideas. Were any of the things you thought of mentioned?

### 2 Listening II

Listen again. Then, answer the questions.

1. What's the saying the female speaker mentions at the start of the conversation?
2. What does she think about the saying?
3. What regret does the speaker who says he was an athlete have?
4. What does the female speaker say about that?
5. What regrets does the man have about not being a professional athlete?

### Audio script

**Luisa:** OK. So, I heard this saying once that it's better to regret something you *have* done than something you *haven't* done. What do you think?

**Jackson:** Mmm... Depends on what you've done.

**Andre:** Is it something bad? Is it something evil?

**Luisa:** Well... I don't know. I'm asking the question. I mean... I... Personally, I think it's a bit... it's better to regret something... erm... that you *have* done. Yeah. Because I think it means you've lived life.

**Jackson:** What if you've done something really stupid?

**Luisa:** Well... Yeah, that's true. That's true. It does depend on what you've done. That's true.

**Jackson:** Exactly. [Well...] Have you guys done anything really stupid?

**Andre:** Well, of course. I've done lots of stupid things. But I agree with Luisa. Maybe it's good to regret something that you've done and maybe you haven't put 100 percent of your effort into.

**Luisa:** Mmm...

**Jackson:** Yeah.

**Andre:** For example, I was an athlete when I was very, very young, [Yeah] and maybe if I had tried harder [Mhm] I would have been a little bit better at what I had done.

**Jackson:** And maybe you'd now be competing in the Olympics [Exactly!] this year!

**Andre:** I'd be training right now!

**Jackson:** Really?

**Luisa:** Yes, but then you could be regretting spending the whole of your life just in difficult training schedules and never

having any fun and never just... you know... eating an ice cream on the beach.

**Andre:** This is true!

**Jackson:** Exactly! Now you have a better life. You have more fun. You don't... you don't, you know... Do you sit around regretting that you're... you know... that you're not a professional athlete?

**Andre:** No, absolutely not. I think things have turned out very, very well.

**Jackson:** Well, you look happy.

**Andre:** I'm a very happy guy. And you?

**Jackson:** Yeah, I'm happy! I mean, I'm full of regret, but I'm still happy.

**Andre:** Do you have anything you wish you would have tried harder at?

**Jackson:** Absolutely nothing.

**Andre:** Absolutely nothing? ☹️

### Top tip: how to listen

The most important thing to remember when listening to a conversation is that you won't understand every word. So, you should only listen out for the key words – the most important words in the conversation: the nouns, verbs, adjectives, etc. Then, you can use your intuition to fill in the gaps – just as you do in your own language. Knowing the context and topic of the conversation will help with this.



**Objective** To teach you some slang words and expressions.

**Think about it** When was the last time you had a chat about politics? Who were you with? What did you say? What's your general opinion of politicians? What do you like or dislike about politics or politicians in general? Who are some of the worst or best politicians in your country?

TRACK 25 ENGLISHMEN

## SLANG CONVERSATION POLITICS

**Warning**  
Many of the words and expressions from this section are used in informal situations. So, be careful how you use them yourself!

Mike and Bob are at the pub, chatting about politics. Listen once and answer these questions:

1. Who has Mike voted for in the election?
2. What does Bob think of this?

Then, listen again and try to guess the meaning of the following slang expressions (also marked in bold in the text). Write out a version of them in Standard English:

	Slang expression	Standard version
1	Gutted	
2	To boot out	
3	Way out	
4	To shaft	
5	Crap	
6	Scum	
7	To bang up	
8	Bastard	
9	A sleaze bag	
10	A bunch of	
11	With their snouts in the trough	
12	They don't give a shit about	
13	Us lot	
14	A mate	
15	A piss-up	
16	A waste of space	
17	Doesn't know his arse from his elbow	
18	Tie the knot	

### Dialogue

Mike and Bob are in a pub. They're chatting about the latest election results. **M=Mike B=Bob**

- M:** So, what did you think of the election result?
- B:** I was **gutted** that the government got in again.
- M:** Pretty predictable though. I mean, with the economy picking up, and the opposition's plans to raise taxes.
- B:** I was hoping to see them get **booted out**. Those opinion polls were **way out**. So, it looks like another five years of cuts with the government **shafting** us left right and centre.
- M:** The usual **crap**. Hey, did you hear about the MP with the million-dollar bank account in Lichtenstein that he hadn't bothered to declare?
- B:** **Scum!**
- M:** But he still managed to get voted in. They should have **banged him up** for a few years.
- B:** Thieving **bastard**.
- M:** Such **sleaze bags**, some of them.
- B:** They're all just a **bunch of pigs with their snouts in the trough**.
- M:** Yeah... most of them, at least.
- B:** **They don't give a shit about us lot** – the little people.
- M:** No, just helping out their **mates**. But you know what? I blame that twat in opposition. He's about as useless as a chocolate teapot in the desert.
- B:** Yeah, he couldn't organise a **piss-up** in a brewery.
- M:** I wouldn't trust him as far as I could spit.
- B:** I wouldn't spit on him if he was on fire. He's a complete **waste of space**.
- M:** **Doesn't know his arse from his elbow**.
- B:** [*silence*] So, who did you vote for?
- M:** The government.
- B:** What? I thought... How could you? What about your principles?
- M:** Well, you know how it is. They promised to bring down income tax for married couples, and as Shirley and I are about to **tie the knot**, it seemed like the logical thing to do.
- B:** Yeah, very logical! Traitor! ❗



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**Objective** To improve your reading and listening skills.

**Think about it** Have you ever been to Scotland? What did you do there? What do you know about Scotland? What comes to mind when you think of Scotland? What other regions or areas in the world are seeking independence? Why? What do you think will happen? What parts of the UK have you visited? Which parts would you like to visit? Why?

**Exams** This reading and listening activity will help prepare you for English exams such as CAE, IELTS and TOEFL.

● TRACK 26: ENGLISHMAN & US MAN

# Yes or no? The Scottish independence debate!

**T**he Scottish referendum took place on 18th September 2014. In the end, about 45% of Scots voted in favour of independence, with more or less 55% voting against a break-up of the **Union**. **Voter turnout** was extremely high at 84.5%. So, what were the arguments for and against independence?



## In favour of Scottish independence:

There are three main arguments in favour of Scottish independence. Firstly, with independence Scotland's problems will be dealt with by Scottish people. At the moment, most important decisions are taken in Westminster (London), the **seat** of the UK **parliament**. Worse, although the Tories (the centre-right-wing Conservative party) are quite popular in England, there's only one Tory MP from a Scottish **constituency**. As Alex Salmond often said during the campaign, there are more pandas in Edinburgh zoo (2) than Tories in Scotland (1).



Secondly, Scottish nationalists want a nuclear-free Scotland, with the removal of nuclear submarines (armed with **Trident** missiles) from the Faslane naval base near Glasgow. They also want to focus on renewable forms of energy such as wind. Finally, Scottish nationalists want control of their oil resources. No one is sure how much oil there is left in the North Sea, and figures vary from 10 billion to 24 billion **barrels**, but nationalists believe that with oil, Scotland has the potential to be one of the richest nations in the world.



## Against Scottish independence

A lot of the arguments against Scottish independence were based on negative scenarios. An independent Scotland, they claimed, would have to leave the **EU** and negotiate its entry, would see many businesses and banks relocate to England, and would have no **viable** currency if they kept the pound as it's controlled by the Bank of England (so Scotland would have no influence over interest rates, for example).

However, it wasn't all **doom and gloom**. The

campaign also focused on the arguments for staying in the Union, referring to all the institutions that have been built up over the years, including the British parliament, the Royal Family, the British civil service, the BBC, the armed forces, the British Red Cross and the NHS (the National Health Service), although many in Scotland fear that the NHS is **under threat** from a Tory government because of their plans for privatising parts of it.

At the last minute, David Cameron made a passionate speech for Scots to stay in the Union, which he described as, "The greatest example of democracy the world has ever known". He added that the break-up of the Union "would be the end of a country that launched the **Enlightenment**, that abolished **slavery**, that drove the **Industrial Revolution**, that defeated fascism... The end of a country that people around the world respect and admire, the end of a country that all of us call home."

In the end, the Scots voted against independence, but the movement for "freedom" is now stronger than ever. Who knows what will happen in the future? ☺

## SCOTLAND FAST FACTS

Scotland is a separate country within the United Kingdom, which consists of England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland. England, Scotland and Wales form (Great) Britain. Population of Scotland: around 5.3 million. Total UK population 61.3 million. GDP per capita for Scotland: £26,424 (including oil and gas) – GDP for UK: £22,336. Capital of Scotland: Edinburgh. Main parties in favour of independence: The Scottish National Party (the SNP) and the Scottish Green Party. Leader of the "Yes" campaign: Alex Salmond; slogan: "Say yes to an independent Scotland!" Main parties against independence: the Conservatives, the Liberal Democrats, the Labour Party. Leader of the "No" campaign: Alistair Darling; slogans: "Better together", "Let's stick together!" and "No thanks" Stars in favour of independence include Sean Connery and Gerard Butler. Stars against independence include David Bowie and JK Rowling.

## VIDEO

YouTube

Watch a video about Scottish independence. Search YouTube for "Scottish referendum explained for non-Brits".

## GLOSSARY

- the Union** <sup>n</sup> the political union between Scotland and England
- voter turnout** <sup>n</sup> the number of people who go to vote
- a seat** <sup>n</sup> the "seat" of parliament is the place where parliament is
- parliament** <sup>n</sup> "parliament" refers to the group of people (and the place where they meet) who make or change the laws in a country
- a constituency** <sup>n</sup> people are elected in elections to represent "constituencies" - the areas of land that a country is divided up into
- Trident** <sup>n</sup> a type of missile that is fired from a nuclear submarine
- a barrel** <sup>n</sup> a quantity of oil that is more or less 160 litres
- the EU** <sup>abbr</sup> the European Union
- viable** <sup>adj</sup> something that is "viable" is good and can perform a job properly
- doom and gloom** <sup>n</sup> a general feeling of negativity and pessimism and that everything is bad
- under threat** <sup>exp</sup> if something is "under threat", it's in danger
- the Enlightenment** <sup>n</sup> a European intellectual movement from the late 17th and early 18th centuries that emphasised reason and individualism rather than tradition
- slavery** <sup>n</sup> a system by which people are owned and have to work for no money
- the Industrial Revolution** <sup>n</sup> changes in manufacturing from 1750 to 1850 (more or less). During this period more and more things were made in factories or by machines, not by people

Answers on page 44

## 1 Reading I

What are the arguments for a country or region wanting independence? For example: *to be free, to have control of their own finances, to get rid of nuclear weapons...*

## 2 Reading I

Read or listen to the article once. Were any of your ideas mentioned?

## 3 Reading II

Read the article again. Then, write a summary of the main points in favour of and against independence.

## A QUICK HISTORICAL TIMELINE FOR SCOTLAND

**1034 - 1040** King Duncan I becomes the Scottish King  
**1040** Macbeth kills Duncan to become King of Scotland 1040 - 1057  
**1297** Scottish war of Independence led by the rebel William Wallace (played by Mel Gibson in the film *Braveheart*)  
**1298** Scots defeated by Edward I of England at the Battle of Falkirk

**1306** Robert the Bruce crowned King of Scotland  
**1314** Battle of Bannockburn: Robert the Bruce defeats the English and gains Scottish independence  
**1707** The Act of Union is passed and Scotland is formally united with England to form Great Britain



I'M WATCHING YOU!

# Secret organisations & world domination!

**T**he 9/11 terrorist attacks in New York in 2001. The BP oil spill in the Gulf of New Mexico. The disappearance of Malaysia Airlines Flight 370 in March 2014. Some **conspiracy theorists** believe these events, and many others, were caused by a secret organisation that wants to dominate the world. So, what's going on?

One such organisation is known as the Illuminati. Conspiracy theorists claim the Illuminati want to create a New World Order and take over the planet. As **proof** of this, they point to the creation of global institutions such as the International Monetary Fund (1944) and the United Nations (1945). Some even believe that the Illuminati are capable of mind control through the use of microwave signals that can send thoughts into your head. And the only way to stop this is to wear a **tin foil** hat, which is what some people actually do.

Many believe that the Illuminati deliberately cause wars and natural disasters. For example, they believe that a nuclear bomb was used to **trigger** the **earthquake** and tsunami that devastated the nuclear reactor at Fukushima in Japan in March 2011. This was supposedly designed to reduce Japan's power and influence in the region. They even claim that events from the past such as the French Revolution (1789), the Battle of Waterloo (1815) and JFK's assassination (1964) were all part of the **plot** for world domination. Members of the Illuminati allegedly include presidents, prime ministers, bankers, kings, queens, generals and members of parliament.

One of the most famous conspiracy theorists is David Icke. He has written several books on global politics, including *The Biggest Secret* (1999) and *Children of the Matrix* (2001). According to his theory, the world is controlled by a secret group of **reptilian humanoids**. These 1.5 to 3.7 metre aliens are from the Alpha Draconis star system and are now hiding in underground bases, or have taken on a human form to control society.

Icke has claimed that many world leaders are reptilians, including George W. Bush (ex president of the USA), Queen Elizabeth II of the United Kingdom and the **Queen Mother**, who, according to Icke, ritually **sacrificed** babies. Icke's conspiracy theories have supporters in over 40 countries; and he often gives talks to **crowds** of up to 6,000 people. A **poll** in America in 2013 by Public Policy Polling showed that 4% of registered voters believed in Icke's ideas.

Icke became the object of **ridicule** after a press conference in 1991 in which he announced that he was a son of the "Godhead" and that the world would end in 1997. This would be **preceded**, he said, by a number of disasters, including eruptions in Cuba, an earthquake on the Isle of Arran and the complete disappearance of New Zealand. He told reporters the information was being given to him by voices and automatic writing. Luckily, he was completely wrong.

Meanwhile, keep wearing those tin foil hats! ☘

## ILLUMINATI & THE ONE-DOLLAR BILL

An Illuminati symbol appears on the American dollar bill, with the "all-seeing eye" in a pyramid. The symbol is supposed to represent providence (destiny). The Latin phrase "novus ordo seclorum" also appears on the bill. It translates as "New Order of the Ages" but some say it means "New World Order".



## ILLUMINATI

A real group called the Illuminati was a secret society in Bavaria (in modern-day Germany) that was founded on 1st May 1776. Among many other things, they were opposed to religious influence in public life and the abuses of state power. They were disbanded in 1785.

## VIDEO

YouTube

Watch a video about the Illuminati. Search YouTube for "Illuminati Explained part1".

## GLOSSARY

- a **conspiracy theorist** *n*  
someone who doesn't believe the official versions given for disasters, wars, killings, etc. and thinks that a government or secret organisation could be involved
- proof** *n*  
evidence in the form of facts and arguments or actual physical proof. This often shows that something is true
- tin foil** *n*  
a thin sheet of metal (often silver in colour) that's used to keep food fresh
- to trigger** *vb*  
if A "triggers" B, A causes B to happen
- an earthquake** *n*  
a violent movement of the earth. Buildings often fall down during "earthquakes"
- a plot** *n*  
a secret plan
- reptilian** *adj*  
something that appears to be a reptile: a snake, a crocodile, an alligator, etc.
- a humanoid** *n*  
an alien or being that looks like a human
- the Queen Mother** *n*  
Queen Elizabeth II's mother, who was also called Elizabeth. She lived from 1900 until 2002
- to sacrifice** *vb*  
to kill an animal or person as part of a special religious ceremony
- a crowd** *n*  
a large group of people in the street
- a poll** *n*  
if you carry out a "poll", you ask people questions to discover their opinions
- ridicule** *n*  
stupid, silly, etc.
- to precede** *vb*  
if A "precedes" B, A happens before B

Answers on page 44

### 1 Reading I

You're going to read about a secret organisation called the Illuminati. Think of three questions to ask about it. Then, read the article once. Were any of your questions answered?

### 2 Reading II

Read the article again. Then, answer the questions.

1. Why do some people wear tin foil hats?
2. What do conspiracy theorists say about the tsunami that devastated the Fukushima nuclear reactor?
3. What is David Icke's theory about global politics?
4. What evidence is there that his theories are popular?
5. Why did he become an object of ridicule?

**Objective** To improve your reading and listening skills.

**Think about it** What do you know about World War I? What about World War II? What wars has your country been involved in? What wars do you think there will be in the future? What can we do to stop them?

**Exams** This reading and listening activity will help prepare you for English exams such as CAE, IELTS and TOEFL.

© TRACK 28: ENGLISHMAN & US MAN

# WHAT CAN WE LEARN FROM WORLD WAR I?

OH, WHAT A LOVELY WAR!



**W**orld War I lasted from August 1914 until November 1918. More than 16 million people died, and over 20 million were wounded. So, is there anything we can learn from it?

The war started because one man died. It really was that simple. A series of **alliances** and **treaties** between empires and countries meant that one single **assassination** led to a war involving millions of soldiers and more than 130 countries from all over the world. On 28th June 1914, Archduke Franz Ferdinand, the **heir** to the **Austro-Hungarian Empire**, was assassinated in Sarajevo by Gavrilo Princip, a member of a Serbian nationalist organisation

that wanted to keep Austria-Hungary out of the **Balkans**.

On 28th July 1914, and in response to the assassination, Austria-Hungary declared war on Serbia. Russia then **mobilised** her army in defence of Serbia. Germany, allied to Austria-Hungary by treaty, saw the mobilisation as a **threat** and declared war on Russia on 1st August. In turn, France found itself at war against Germany and Austria-Hungary because of a treaty with Russia. Then, after Germany invaded neutral Belgium as part of an attack on France, Britain was obliged to declare war on Germany (which it did on 4th August) because of a promise to defend Belgium under the Treaty of London of 1839. The war had started.

World War I was a war like no other. For the first time, tanks, aeroplanes, and submarines were used **on a large scale**. And the conflict was truly horrific. For example, around 60,000

British soldiers were killed or injured on the first day of the Battle of the Somme – that's 60,000 in just one day! Poison gas was also used to kill, **maim** and **blind** terrified soldiers from both sides. Worst of all, World War I became a war of **attrition** in which generals ordered the soldiers to keep on attacking, regardless of the loss. So, instead of capturing strong points or **out-manoeuvring** the enemy, the objective was simple: kill as many of the enemy's troops as you can, and hope that you've got some soldiers left at the end.

So, did anything positive come out of the war? World War One helped advance women's rights. During the war, women found work as nurses, bus drivers and workers in **munitions** factories, among many other things. After the war, the 1918 Representation of the People Act **enfranchised** 8.5 million women (those over the age of 30), giving them the vote for the first time. And the Sex Disqualification Act of 1919 made it illegal to exclude women from jobs because of their **gender**.

And what can we learn? Some feel that the act of remembering is the best way to prevent future horrors. The photos, poems and memoirs from World War I serve as a vivid reminder of the devastation. And every second Sunday in November on Remembrance Day (or Remembrance Sunday) ceremonies are held to

commemorate the end of the war and honour the dead. As part of the celebrations, people often wear a red **poppy**. During the war, the troops noticed how poppies often grew on the battlefields over the bodies of the dead soldiers. Very soon, the red flowers became a symbol of remembrance of the past and hope for the future.

*They shall grow not old,  
as we that are left grow old:  
Age shall not weary them,  
nor the years condemn.  
At the going down of the sun  
and in the morning,  
We will remember them.*  
[From Laurence Binyon's poem, *For the Fallen*]

## VIDEO

YouTube

Watch a video on what it was like for soldiers in World War One. Search YouTube for "Fast Facts - World War One: Trench Life".

## GLOSSARY

- an alliance** *n* a formal agreement between two countries
- a treaty** *n* a written agreement between countries
- an assassination** *n* the killing of an important person, such as a president, a king, a queen, etc.
- an heir** *n* the "heir" to the throne (for example) is the person who will become king or queen when the current king or queen dies
- the Austro-Hungarian Empire** *n* a union of the Empires of Austria and Hungary that existed from 1867 to 1918
- the Balkans** *n* the Balkan Peninsula - a region in southeast Europe that includes countries such as Serbia, Bulgaria, Croatia, Romania, etc.
- to mobilise** *v* if a country "mobilises" its army (for example), the army is given orders to prepare for war
- a threat** *n* a danger
- on a large scale** *exp* if something happens "on a large scale", it happens a lot and involves many people or things, etc.
- to maim** *v* to injure someone very badly
- to blind** *v* to make someone "blind" (unable to see)
- attrition** *n* a process in which you reduce the strength of an enemy by continually attacking them
- to out-manoeuvre** *v* if you "out-manoeuvre" someone, you gain an advantage over them, often by moving your forces in a clever way
- munitions** *n* military equipment and supplies such as bombs, guns, bullets, etc.
- to enfranchise** *v* if a group of people are "enfranchised", they're allowed to vote in elections
- a gender** *n* a person's "gender" is the fact that they're either male or female
- a poppy** *n* a plant with a bright red flower

Answers on page 44

### 1 Pre-reading

What are some of the negative consequences of war? What positive things can come out of a war? What positive things came out of World War I and World War II? Make notes.

### 2 Reading II

Read or listen to the article once to compare your ideas from the Pre-reading task.

### 3 Reading II

Read the article again. Then, write a summary of the article and its main points.

## WORLD WAR ONE

**28<sup>th</sup> June 1914** Gavrilo Princip assassinates Archduke Franz Ferdinand of Austria-Hungary.

**28<sup>th</sup> July 1914** Austria-Hungary declares war on Serbia.

**4<sup>th</sup> August 1914** Germany invades Belgium. Britain declares war on Germany.

**10<sup>th</sup> August 1914** Austria-Hungary invades Russia.

**1<sup>st</sup> July 1916** First Battle of the Somme River, France. The British introduce the tank.

**6<sup>th</sup> April 1917** US declares war against Germany.

**3<sup>rd</sup> December 1917** Russia signs an armistice with Germany.

**11<sup>th</sup> November 1918** the war ends.

**28<sup>th</sup> June 1919** The Treaty of Versailles is signed at the Palace of Versailles, France.



**Objective** To improve your listening skills.

**Think about it** Have you ever participated in a conference call? What was it about? How did it go? When was the last time you asked someone for their opinion of something? What was it for? What did they say? When was the last time you had to give your opinion on something? What was it? Did you change your mind about it later? Why?

**Exams** This listening activity will help prepare you for English exams such as CAE, IELTS and TOEFL.

TRACK 29: SEVERAL  
ENGLISH ACCENTS

Answers on page 44

## 1 Pre-listening

How many expressions can you think of for giving opinions?

Make a list. For example:

*I think... In my opinion...*

*I'm convinced that... I'm sure that... It's my firm belief that... I'm absolutely sure that... Without a doubt, the best thing would be to...*

Now, use the expressions to give your opinions on the following ideas.

- Working from home.
- Moving abroad to find a job.
- Accepting a job in a foreign country.
- Having a factory located in another country (in the Far East, for example).

## 2 Listening I

You're going to listen to a conference call (a telephone call with more than two callers). Listen once, how effective is the meeting? What is good or bad about it?

## 3 Listening II

Listen again. Then, answer the questions.

1. What are the two items on the agenda?
2. How long does each participant have to give their opinion?
3. Why does Alisha think it's better to keep the factory where it is?
4. What does Dave say the government has promised to do for companies who relocate?
5. Why does Alisha say it'll be more expensive to move back to the UK?
6. Why does Dave say it's going to be more expensive to stay in the Far East?
7. Why does Bob say it'll be good for their brand?
8. What is Jennifer in the middle of doing when she calls?
9. What does she think of the proposal?

## 4 Listening III

Complete the audio script with the correct words.

### Note!

Don't read the audio script until you've completed the exercises and activities.

CAN YOU  
HEAR US?

# THE CONFERENCE CALL: GETTING OPINIONS

### Audio script

**Karl:** Right, we're all connected, so let's get started. As you know there are two items on the agenda. Firstly, I'd like to get your opinions on relocating the factory back to the UK; and secondly, I'd like your thoughts on the launch party for the new brand of trainer (1) \_\_\_\_\_. We'll deal with these two points in order. Now, as you know, you each get about 20 seconds to give your opinion without interruption. There'll be some time afterwards to give any follow-up comments. Once I've heard from all of you, I'll sit down and analyse your ideas and hopefully (2) \_\_\_\_\_ . OK?

**All:** Yes.

**Karl:** OK, Dave has agreed to take the minutes. So, let's start with item number one on the agenda. Please make your comments as brief (3) \_\_\_\_\_. Right, Alisha, let's start with you, what do you think of the idea of relocating the factory?

**Alisha:** Well, personally, I'm not sure it'd be such a great idea. I mean, (4) \_\_\_\_\_ at the moment and if we bring production back here...

**Dave:** Sorry to interrupt but, Dave here, remember, the government has promised to introduce tax breaks for companies who relocate...

**Alisha:** Could I just finish?

**Karl:** Dave, no interruptions, please!

**Bob:** Bob here, but don't you think we should be looking at the impact this (5) \_\_\_\_\_ ?

**Karl:** Bob, just stick to the topic for now, please.

**Alisha:** Look, as I was saying, I think it's going to end up costing us a lot more (6) \_\_\_\_\_. And besides, if we shift things back here,

we'll be subject to much stricter environmental regulations, so it's going to be much more expensive (7) \_\_\_\_\_. So, I think...

**Dave:** Dave here. Once again, please remember that with the tax breaks the government are going to introduce, and with increases in shipping costs (8) \_\_\_\_\_ from the Far East all the way back here, I think it'll end up being cheaper to have the factory here in the UK.

**Bob:** Besides, it'll be good for our brand to be "British" again. I think it'll go down well with people round here – you know, giving jobs to local people and all that.

**Alisha:** Honestly, I think people are more concerned about (9) \_\_\_\_\_ is going to cost them than any feelings of patriotism because...

**Bob:** I wouldn't be too sure about that, I mean...

**Dave:** And with those tax breaks...

**Karl:** Look, look, people, this is all great, but could you just (10) \_\_\_\_\_. Jennifer, you haven't said anything yet. What do you think? [silence] Jennifer? Hello?

**Jennifer:** Oh, hi, yes, sorry. I'm just on my way to the airport. (11) \_\_\_\_\_ .

**Karl:** So, Jennifer, could you give us your opinion on the idea of re-locating the factory?

**Jennifer:** Yes, well, erm, I think it would be a good idea because we could, erm, we could save a lot of money.

**Karl:** Right, well, erm, I think that takes care of the first item. So, (12) \_\_\_\_\_ on the agenda. As you know, we need to come up with a plan for the launch party for... [fades out] ☆

# ACCIDENTS

This month we are looking at some phrasal verbs to describe accidents.

Complete the sentences (1 to 8) with the words from below.

brother shock cable floor street hands ice cigarette

Learn more! Get a phrasal verbs booklet! Over 150 useful phrasal verbs + audio files. For more information, visit: [products.learnhotenglish.com/phrasal-verbs-booklet](http://products.learnhotenglish.com/phrasal-verbs-booklet)

1

## Knock over

If you "knock something over", you hit it accidentally and make it fall.

"I knocked over the vase and it smashed on the \_\_\_\_\_."



2

## Burn down

If a building is "burnt down", it is completely destroyed by fire.

"A burning \_\_\_\_\_ on the kitchen floor caused a fire that burnt down the house."



3

## Mistake for

If you "mistake A for B", you think that A is B, even though it isn't.

"I mistook Jim for his \_\_\_\_\_ – they look exactly the same."

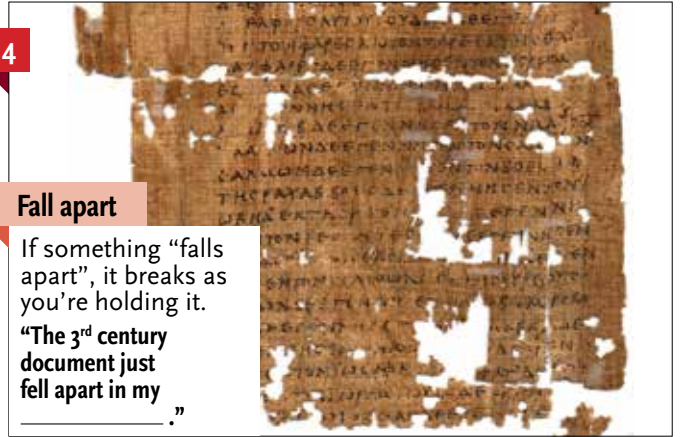


4

## Fall apart

If something "falls apart", it breaks as you're holding it.

"The 3<sup>rd</sup> century document just fell apart in my \_\_\_\_\_."



5

## Tread on / step on

If you "tread on" something, you put your foot on it.

"He accidentally trod on the wire and got an electric \_\_\_\_\_."



6

## Slip on

If you "slip on" ice (for example), you fall as you're walking on the ice.

"I slipped on the \_\_\_\_\_ and banged my head on the ground."



7

## Bump into / bang into

If you "bump into" someone, you hit your body against theirs accidentally.

"We bumped into each other as we were walking down the \_\_\_\_\_."



8

## Trip over

If you "trip over" something, your foot hits that thing and you fall.

"I tripped over a \_\_\_\_\_ that was on the floor."





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## ANSWERS

## BREAKFAST (PAGE 5)

## 1 Reading II

1. Roberto; 2. Zacharias; 3. Cynthia; 4. Carolina;  
5. Jochem

## PRODUCTS (PAGE 6)

## 1 Reading II

1. Boot; 2. Scooter; 3. Cup; 4. Jacket; 5. Pillow

## SELFIES (PAGE 7)

## 1 Reading II

1. Famous friends selfie; 2. Bed selfie; 3. Duckface  
selfie; 4. Shy selfie; 5. Happy couple selfie; 6. Beach  
feet selfie / Holiday selfie

## GRAMMAR BOOSTER (PAGE 8)

1. friends; 2. home; 3. traffic; 4. school; 5. morning;  
6. land; 7. stable; 8. garden

## ENGLISH IN ACTION (PAGE 10)

1. furniture shop; 2. stationer's; 3. department store;  
4. mobile phone shop; 5. antique shop; 6. baker's;  
7. pet shop

## THE DATE (PAGE 12)

## 1 Listening II

1. cinema; 2. lunch; 3. theatre; 4. opera; 5. art gallery;  
6. May; 7. hamster

## 2 Listening III

1. appointment; 2. meeting; 3. mum; 4. work;  
5. opening; 6. weeks; 7. family; 8. art; 9. number

## PRACTICAL ENGLISH (PAGE 13)

1. time; 2. yesterday; 3. hotel; 4. talks; 5. laptop;  
6. queue; 7. minute; 8. company; 9. afternoon;  
10. café

## FILMS (PAGE 15)

1. Mrs Doubtfire; 2. Ghostbusters; 3. Notting Hill;  
4. The Shining; 5. Fault in our Stars  
6. Breakfast at Tiffany's

## eBAY PRODUCTS (PAGE 16)

1. \$3.26; 2. Thewildandcrazyoli; 3. Jon Malipiemani;  
4. His life; 5. His forehead; 6. Samuel L. Jackson

## IG NOBELS (PAGE 17)

## 1 Reading II

1. Biology; 2. Arctic science; 3. Neuroscience;  
4. Physics; 5. Psychology

## THE BLIND DATE (PAGE 18)

## 1 Listening II

1. a pint; 2. St Michael's; 3. in Hull; 4. in Tanzania;  
5. he learnt how to scuba dive; 6. that he looks fatter;  
7. a new Ford Fiesta; 8. she's a doctor

## 2 Listening III

1. find; 2. live; 3. get; 4. went; 5. played; 6. grow up;  
7. travelled; 8. shot; 9. stayed; 10. carry; 11. put on;  
12. parked; 13. see; 14. feeling

## BUSINESS NEWS (PAGE 19)

## 1 Reading II

1. Alison; 2. David; 3. Ethan; 4. Alison; 5. Ethan;  
6. David

## WEDDINGS (PAGE 20)

1. Because they stopped serving drinks at the reception.  
2. Her glass of wine.  
3. Because he'd forgotten to book the registry office.  
4. They were in Crosslake, Minnesota.  
5. They were fighting over a pork pie.  
6. He suffered minor injuries.

## TRAVEL ENGLISH (PAGE 22)

1. taxi; 2. lunch; 3. offices; 4. wine; 5. starters;  
6. main course; 7. drinks; 8. flight; 9. laptop; 10. area

## 8 PHRASAL VERBS FROM SONGS (PAGE 24 &amp; 25)

1. survive; 2. wait; 3. happening; 4. escape;  
5. continues; 6. leave; 7. feel; 8. depend

## CON ARTISTS (PAGE 28)

## 1 Reading II

1. Christophe; 2. Phillip; 3. Frank; 4. Phillip; 5. Phillip;  
6. Frank; 7. Christophe; 8. Frank

## MATHS (PAGE 29)

## 1 Pre-reading

1. One plus four is five  
2. Twelve minus four is eight  
3. Six times two is twelve  
4. Twelve divided by four is three  
5. One point three  
6. Four thousand

7. Four hundred and thirty-six

8. Three hundred and twenty thousand, nine-  
hundred and eighty-seven

## 2 Reading I - maths questions at the end

1. What's 14 plus 17? = 31  
2. What's 28 plus 9? = 37  
3. What's 37 minus 8? = 29  
4. What's 42 minus 5? = 37  
5. What's 8 times 7? = 56  
6. What's 11 times 3? = 33  
7. What's 15 divided by 3? = 5  
8. What's 81 divided by 9? = 9  
9. If an item in a shop costs €340, but it's been  
reduced by 10%, what's the new price? = €306  
10. You go to a fun fair. The entry price is €50, but  
you've got a discount coupon with 20% off. How  
much will you pay for the ticket? = €40  
11. You're in a shop and an item you want to buy  
costs €1.46. If you give the cashier €2, how much  
change will you get? = 54 cents  
12. You want to buy something that costs €2.87.  
If you give the cashier a 5-euro note, how much  
change will you get? = €2.13

## 3 Reading II

1. Swine flu and global warming.  
2. By two-thirds of a percentage point.  
3. Thirty-three percent, more or less.  
4. £20 billion  
5. They've recruited some Chinese maths teachers.  
6. You get referred to a series of learning resources.

## GIFTS (PAGE 30)

## 1 Reading II

1. Queen Elizabeth II: 2 beavers and an elephant  
2. King George III: a cheetah  
3. King George IV: a giraffe  
4. David Cameron: a bottle of Armenian cognac and  
a painting of a horse  
5. President Obama: a golf accessory bag, a  
basketball ball, an antique map  
6. First Lady Michelle Obama: a brooch  
7. Chinese Premier Li Keqiang: a tennis racket  
signed by Andy Murray  
8. Gordon Brown: a box set of 25 DVDs

## QUIRKY NEWS (PAGE 32)

## 1 Reading II

1. Because his girlfriend had called off their  
engagement.  
2. In a party.  
3. In the main shopping district of Sydney.  
4. The Sick Puppies.  
5. All the Same.  
6. The first Saturday following 30th June.  
7. Give each other a hug.

## CONFERENCE CALL I (PAGE 34)

## 1 Listening II

1. The sales manager in their London branch.  
2. The marketing manager of their Singapore  
branch.  
3. To get their feedback on the new IT system.  
4. Go through the information guide.  
5. The managing director of their New York branch.  
6. He hasn't got a copy.  
7. His document only has two pages.  
8. Implementing the New System.  
9. Because they had a deadline and they didn't want  
to miss any work time.  
10. It crashed and they were without any power for  
six hours.

## 2 Listening III

1. who don't know  
2. in our Singapore branch  
3. a couple of people  
4. I sent you  
5. in some heavy traffic  
6. find the document  
7. at page six  
8. on the front page  
9. on the new system  
10. the old one  
11. Monday morning deadline  
12. for six hours

## GROUP TALK (PAGE 36)

## 2 Listening II

1. It's better to regret something you *have* done than  
something you *haven't* done.  
2. She says that it's better to regret something that  
you have done.  
3. That if he'd tried harder, he would have been a bit  
better.  
4. That he could then be regretting having spent his

whole life in difficult training sessions and never  
having had any fun.  
5. He doesn't have any regrets about not being a  
professional athlete.

## SLANG CONVERSATION (PAGE 37)

1. Mike voted for the government.  
2. Bob is angry because he feels that Mike has  
forgotten about his principles.

Slang expression	Standard version
1 Gutted	Very sad and disappointed
2 To boot out	To eject; to throw out
3 Way out	Completely wrong
4 To shaft	To harm; to damage
5 Crap	Rubbish / lies
6 Scum	Bad people
7 To bang up	To send to prison
8 Bastard	Bad person; idiot
9 A sleaze bag	A person you can't trust
10 A bunch of	A lot of
11 With their snouts in the trough	Someone "with their snout in the trough" is stealing money
12 They don't give a shit about	They don't care about
13 Us lot	All of us
14 A mate	A friend
15 A piss-up	A (wild) party
16 A waste of space	A useless, worthless person
17 Doesn't know his arse from his elbow	He's a useless person who doesn't understand basic things
18 Tie the knot	To get married

## SCOTLAND (PAGE 38)

## 1 Reading II

Student's own answers.

## WORLD DOMINATION (PAGE 39)

## 1 Reading II

1. Because they think that the Illuminati can control  
you through the use of microwave signals, and that  
these can be blocked by wearing a tin foil hat.  
2. That the tsunami was caused by an explosion  
from a nuclear bomb.  
3. That the world is controlled by a secret group of  
reptilian humanoid.  
4. He has supporters in over 40 countries, he often  
gives talks to up to 6,000 people and a poll in 2013  
showed that 4% of Americans believed in his ideas.  
5. Because he made some ridiculous predictions  
about the world ending.

## WORLD WAR ONE (PAGE 40)

## 1 Reading II

Student's own answers.

## CONFERENCE CALL II (PAGE 41)

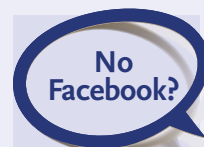
## 1 Listening II

1. Opinions on relocating the factory and ideas for  
the launch party for the new trainers.  
2. Each participant has about 20 seconds.  
3. Because costs are pretty low at the moment.  
4. Dave says the government has promised to  
introduce tax breaks for companies that relocate.  
5. Because of the stricter environmental regulations  
in the UK.  
6. Because shipping costs have increased.  
7. Because they'll be able to say that it's British and  
that they're providing jobs for local people.  
8. She's in the middle of driving to the airport.  
9. She thinks it's good because they could save a lot  
of money.  
2 Listening III  
1. we're bringing out next month  
2. come up with a plan  
3. and to the point as possible  
4. costs are pretty low  
5. could have on the marketing department  
6. in the long run  
7. from that point of view too  
8. for sending our products  
9. how much the product  
10. stop interrupting one another  
11. I've got a flight to catch  
12. let's move onto the second item

## PHRASAL VERBS (PAGE 42)

1. floor; 2. cigarette; 3. brother; 4. hands; 5. shock;  
6. ice; 7. street; 8. cable





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## STORY TIME

Jokes, anecdotes and stories as told by native English speakers.



## The skeleton

- A:** I say, I say, I say.  
What's a skeleton's favourite instrument?  
**B:** I don't know. What is a skeleton's favourite instrument?  
**A:** The **trom-bone**.

## Desperate measures

Mr Michaels is in the living room reading the paper when his son Tim comes running in. "Dad, dad, can I have another glass of water, please?" "OK," says Mr Michaels as he gets up off his **armchair**, "but it's the 10<sup>th</sup> one you've had in an hour." "I know," says little Tim, "but my bed is still on fire." Jack is on a **cruise liner**

## Desert island

enjoying the view when the ship sails past a tiny island. From where he's standing, Jack can see a **bearded** man on the island **waving** his hands and shouting desperately. "Who's that?" Jack asks the captain, who is standing next to him. And the cruise ship captain replies, "I have no idea. But every year we pass the island, he **goes nuts**."

## eBay

Bob and Mike are chatting in a bar. "Have you ever sold anything on eBay?" asks Bob. "No," replies Mike. "Well, you should. You can make a fortune," Bob explains.

## GLOSSARY

- a trombone** *n*  
a large musical instrument of the brass family with two long tubes that you push backwards and forwards to play different notes
- an armchair** *n*  
a big comfortable chair which has a support on each side for your arms
- a cruise liner** *n*  
a large ship. You can travel on it, stopping off at different places or countries
- bearded** *adj*  
with a beard – hair on the lower part of the face
- to wave** *vb*  
to move your hand from side to side as a way of signalling to someone
- to go nuts** *exp inform*  
to go crazy; to become very angry or nervous
- a homing pigeon** *n*  
a pigeon that can find its way home from a long distance away

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